

ELIZABETH'S STORY

Our exclusive serialisation of Sarah Bradford's authoritative biography of the Queen



PAGE 13

Part four: her devotion to duty sets her apart from her own children



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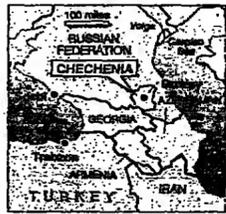
The bad girls Channel 4's new Girlie Show is all mouth and no trousers

Terrorists hijack Black Sea ferry

By Michael Evans... HEAVILY armed Chechen rebels seized a Turkish ferry in the Black Sea port of Trabzon last night...

about 20 Chechens firing Kalashnikov automatic rifles at about 6.20 pm local time...

person already. Three hours later, the raiders found the ferry's Turkish captain Mustafa Tunca...



forces, backed by helicopter gunships, artillery and air force bombers, continued to pound the village...

In the devastated Chechen capital of Grozny, a new hostage crisis developed when an unidentified group kidnapped up to 40 workers...

back into the centre of the village where they were holding the mosque and school and several nearby buildings...

killed. Moviadi Udugov, a Chechen rebel spokesman, claimed the bodies of more than 200 Russian soldiers were lying in the streets...

TUC chief hails Blair boost for unions

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR THE leader of the trade union movement hails the political dispute over Tony Blair's plans for a 'stakeholder economy'...

lead to a return to the 1970s, or give the Tories a chance to rerun their anti-union arguments of the 1980s...



Monks fuels dispute over stakeholding

Mawhinney, the Conservative chairman, declared that Mr Monks had confirmed the warnings that he and the Prime Minister had been giving about Mr Blair's plans...

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The Queen's idyll, the Hodder valley in northern Lancashire: she is quoted in Sarah Bradford's biography Elizabeth as saying this is where she would like to retire to

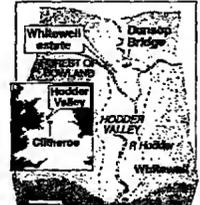
Quiet valley the Queen dreams of making her home

By KATE ALDERSON

THE Lancashire backwater in which the Queen dreams of retiring with the Duke of Edinburgh is revealed today as the Hodder Valley...

Bowland, which she once told a friend: 'Philip and I would like to retire to'...

The Queen, as Duke of Lancaster, owns the 52,000-acre Duchy of Lancaster estate, a patchwork of landholdings scattered across England...



stone walls, and is sparsely populated. But there are plenty of pheasant, salmon, grouse and trout...

bought from the Towneley family by the Duke in 1938...

visited by the Duke and Duchess of York during their early courtship, dates back at least to the 15th century as a royal hunting lodge and members of the Royal Family have

Ski star killed in downhill crash

By LEYLA LINTON

KIRSTEEN MCGIBBON, Britain's female downhill skiing champion, was killed yesterday after crashing during training in Austria...



McGibbon: knocked out during training run

Nunn hits back at TV opera attack

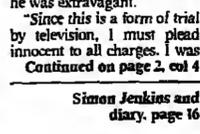
By STEPHEN FARRELL

TREVOR NUNN, the theatre director, last night attacked Sir James Spenser, the Royal Opera House board chairman...

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Defector's best-laid plans suffer circulation problems

It is in order to call Michael Howard odious? MPs briefly discussed this important subject yesterday. On Monday, Alice Mahon (Lab, Halifax) had asked Madam Speaker what methods were available to ask the Minister of State and her odious boss about the "barbaric practice" of shackling pregnant women prisoners.

Yesterday Mrs Mahon rose to apologise. It was Mr Howard's policies, she explained, which were odious, not him. Miss Boothroyd cooed that

the House was grateful that Mrs Mahon had rephrased her remarks. "Oh no we aren't" cried a bunch of Opposition MPs.

Perhaps Labour's Andrew Faulds (Warley E) was among them. The bushy-bearded actor (retired) returned after a long illness last year, as he is starting to be nasty. Faulds was unconvinced that "odious" as applied to Mr Howard, is out of order. Could MPs vote on this, he asked? Madam Speaker brushed this

aside. She brushed aside, too, a complaint against Lady Olga Maitland (C, Sutton & Cheam) who last year gave her own apology to the House for her tactics in harrying the Disabling Bill. Labour's Barry Sheerman accused her of suggesting recently that she was only pretending to be sorry.

Miss Boothroyd took no view and nor do we, though contrition and Lady Olga make unusual bedfellows.

As her performance at PM's Questions had indicated. Was

it de Tocqueville who remarked that the French Constitution, in all its magnificence, afforded to noblemen and beggars an equal right to sleep under bridges? Yesterday Lady Olga, in all her magnificence, explained that in her Tory version of the "stakeholder society" people did have a stake in society because they could own their own homes, and shares on the stock exchange; and pay lower taxes.

Delivered in a Mayfair accent the remark prompted the listener to speculate on just how welcome these freedoms must be to the people sleeping under bridges. I thought of Lady Olga in

the debate which followed, when Emma Nicholson (W Devon & Torridge) made her maiden speech as a Liberal Democrat. Both Olga and Emma have supreme Tory voices, but of two distinct kinds. Nicholson — rich and breathy — speaks County Tory. Maitland — cut glass — speaks Eaton Square Tory.

MPs were debating the World Service of the BBC, Miss Nicholson praising the Corporation's foreign language services. It struck me that the BBC might provide

services in Tory Lady Speak of both the dialects, for those dwindling but influential pockets among the world's population who still prefer to be addressed in these tones.

The better Commons speakers (like Sir Edward Heath, these days) manage without notes. On the backbenches it is considered bad form to read, but Miss Nicholson had decided to stick to the security of a prepared text.

Unluckily she had left a copy on a Commons photocopier. A mischievous Tory

had circulated it among all Tory MPs. The entire Government benches paged noisily through, giggling, as head-down, Miss Nicholson ploughed on, refusing all interruptions.

With defection in the air and handcoffs out of fashion, this was a time to scan the government benches for MPs who might be finding her discomfiture less than hilarious. George Walden (C, Buckingham) fooked dangerously thoughtful.

But then he always does.



POLITICAL SKETCH
it de Tocqueville who remarked that the French Constitution, in all its magnificence, afforded to noblemen and beggars an equal right to sleep under bridges? Yesterday Lady Olga, in all her magnificence, explained that in her Tory version of the "stakeholder society" people did have a stake in society because they could own their own homes, and shares on the stock exchange; and pay lower taxes.

Heseltine's gaffe is just the job for Opposition

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL HESELTINE confirmed yesterday what most of the country has feared for years — that Cabinet ministers do not know what day of the week it is. The Deputy Prime Minister disclosed the monthly unemployment news a day before its official publication.

His blunder was doubly embarrassing because he chairs the Cabinet's committee on the co-ordination and presentation of Government policy — better known as the "banana skins" department. One of the Tory spin doctors reacted by saying he was going off into a corner to have a quiet weep.

The figures, which are market sensitive, were not due to be released officially until 9.30 this morning. But Mr Heseltine, who like other senior ministers is told about them 36 hours beforehand, jumped the gun as he came under pressure from reporters over the Government's latest political woes.

Pressed about the attack on Baroness Thatcher by Alistair Burt, the Social Security Minister, Mr Heseltine came unstruck as he resorted to the politician's trick of changing the subject. He said: "The real news of today is that unemployment is down for the 28th month in a row — those are the things that matter."

Mr Heseltine, who was visiting the Pilkington Technology Centre in Lathom, near Ormskirk, Lancashire, added: "I am here to celebrate a British company, a major advance, excellent news about unemployment and very strong economic performance."

His over-hasty reply caused red faces in Whitehall, not



Computer takes pilots on flight into future

Flight Lieutenant Kevin Seymour yesterday proved himself the most proficient combat pilot in the multi-billion pound Eurofighter — even though the plane is still in its development stage (Robin Young writes). Seated at the controls of a computer simulator the Royal Navy pilot beat three other top pilots invited to take part in a series of combat exercises.

The Eurofighter may be several years behind schedule and billions of pounds over budget but the computer game, TFX-EF2000, costs mere hundreds and is highly effective. Developed by Digital Image Design of Warrington, Lancashire, the game incorporates every unclassified detail of the Eurofighter's specification that the designers could glean. The company says the result is so convincing it has won them a contract for a simulator from Nato.

In yesterday's trial, Fl Lt Seymour won the title of Top Gun in a series of dogfights against rivals from the RAF, British Aerospace and British Airways. The pilots took turns in head-to-head combats seated at computer consoles which replicated the controls of the Eurofighter.

Paul Barlow of British Aerospace, an engineer employed on the design of Eurofighter's cockpit, said: "This is very close to the real thing. The head-up display is just what the pilot would see."

Dublin accused fail to appear

BY NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

UNIONISTS and Conservatives expressed anger last night after three alleged republican terrorists failed to appear at a hearing at Dublin's anti-terrorist Special Criminal Court.

John Taylor, the deputy leader of the Ulster Unionist Party and MP for Strangford, accused the Irish authorities of having acted "deplorably" in giving the men a chance to abscond by granting them bail last year.

The comments came after Dublin's Special Criminal Court issued warrants for the arrest of the three men when they failed to appear in court for a resumed hearing. The three men are facing charges in connection with a big arms find after Irish police inter-

cepted a car and seized a cache of weapons.

Andrew Hunter, chairman of the Conservative backbench Northern Ireland Committee and MP for Basingstoke, said: "The Irish judicial system should not have allowed them out on bail."

"This is yet another instance which shows that the response of the Irish authorities to violence is inadequate."

Under the Irish Republic's laws, bail can be refused only in very strict circumstances. A court has to be satisfied that witnesses will be interfered with or that there is a likelihood that the accused will not appear at his trial.

More than 80 per cent of people in Northern Ireland believe that IRA and loyalist

terrorists should disarm, according to an opinion poll published yesterday.

A clear majority (60 per cent) believe that all terrorist weapons should be decommissioned before talks, while a further 23 per cent of people want some weapons to be removed before talks.

The findings, published in last night's *Belfast Telegraph*, came as the international commission on terrorist arms announced that it would delay the publication of its report by nearly a week until next Wednesday.

The commission, which is chaired by George Mitchell, the former United States senator, delayed its report after receiving a large number of requests for meetings from political parties on both sides of the border.

Market Research Consultancy (Ireland) interviewed 1,051 people from both communities at 50 locations across Northern Ireland last week for last night's poll. Only 13 per cent of those questioned said that the terrorists' arms should not be decommissioned; 4 per cent of those questioned did not know.

The Royal Ulster Constabulary said yesterday that it had arrested a number of people in connection with one of the recent shootings of alleged drugs dealers by suspected IRA gunmen. On January 5, three people were arrested in connection with one of the killings. The three were released later that day.

Donaldson questions Hindley jail term

The Home Secretary could face a fresh challenge in the courts after a former Master of the Rolls yesterday questioned the legality of keeping the Moors murderer Myra Hindley in jail for the rest of her life.

Lord Donaldson of Lynton said he did not see how the "tariff", the time a murderer serves in jail, could be increased by a Home Secretary on the basis of public opinion. Hindley's tariff has been increased by successive Home Secretaries from 20 years to 30 years and then to "life". Lord Donaldson said: "I can see no legal basis for it."

Michael Howard is about to consider a report by the Parole Board on Hindley's detention. The Home Office said he would consider the board's advice but must consider other factors, including "maintaining public confidence in the criminal justice system".

Lord Donaldson said, however, that taking into account the public acceptability of a release came "perilously close to lynch law". Lord Donaldson confirmed that he had written to Hindley's legal team, which is considering a possible challenge over her sentence, but said the letter was confidential.

More students drop out

Rising numbers of students are leaving university because they cannot cope with the academic demands of their course, vice-chancellors said yesterday. An estimated 54,000 full-time students abandoned their studies in 1994-95, 10 per cent more than the previous year. The number citing academic reasons for their decision to leave university prematurely rose 20 per cent to 21,000.

Vice-chancellors believe, however, that financial pressures are more to blame for the exodus than intellectual inability. Ted Nield, a spokesman for the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals, said: "People can fail academic courses for financial reasons by spending too much time working for money and not enough in the library."

Meningitis cases refused

St Mary's Hospital in London has turned away children with meningitis because its expertise in dealing with the illness has brought it more referrals than it can handle. Patricia McCann, chief executive, said it admitted 43 children to its paediatric intensive care unit in the ten months to last December but refused admission to 41 others. The hospital takes cases from all over the country.

Masari move defended

In the Commons, John Major defended the decision to order the removal of the Saudi dissident Muhammad al-Masari from Britain to the Caribbean island of Dominica. He said Dr Masari had abused British hospitality and that the United Kingdom should "not give comfort to those who seek to undermine" the Saudi Government. Dr Masari has lodged an appeal against his removal.

Irish honour Charlton

Jack Charlton, left, who resigned last month after ten years as manager of the Irish Republic's football team, is set to become an honorary Irish citizen. The Dublin Cabinet decided yesterday to recommend Mr Charlton, 60, and his wife, Pat, for the honour to President Robinson. The former England footballer will be entitled to an Irish passport and all the rights of Irish citizenship.

Wills legislation shelved

The Government has shelved plans to bring in new legislation to allow "living wills" and to regulate right-to-die cases, the Lord Chancellor announced yesterday. Lord Mackay of Clashfern said the Government had decided against enacting a draft Bill on mental incapacity, drawn up by the Law Commission. Instead it is to issue a consultation paper so there can be wide public consultation.

Radon plans changed

The Government announced a change in its measures against the threat of radon, a radioactive gas that can increase the risk of contracting lung cancer. James Clappison, an Environment Minister, disclosed that the existing system under which any household in England could ask for a free measurement is to be replaced by a scheme aimed at homes in the most affected areas.

Why men don't shop

Despite all the talk of new man, only one in 25 makes the weekly visit to the supermarket, a survey by the Sainsbury's supermarket chain suggests. But the reason appears to be not so much dogged male chauvinism as women's determination not to surrender their traditional hegemony over hearth and home, according to the survey of some 2,000 shoppers in 22 towns and cities.

IRA bomber wins damages for fall

BY ADRIAN LEE

THE terrorist bomber Donna Maguire was awarded £13,500 damages yesterday against the Government for an injury she suffered when she tripped on a footpath in Northern Ireland almost 11 years ago.

The case was delayed because Miss Maguire, convicted last year of an attack against a British army base, spent six years in custody in Germany.

Ken Maginias, the Ulster Unionist MP, described the award at the High Court in Belfast as scandalous. "Here is a woman who has set out to destroy society and yet she has the blatant cheek to sue for this alleged injury."

"People who have suffered at the hands of her, and people like her, have received smaller sums in terms of compensation. Their reaction will be one of disgust because she has played the system for a fool."

Miss Maguire, sentenced to nine years for the bombing but released because of the time spent in custody, said the ankle injury left her unable to dance, jog or swim. She told the court she fell in Newry, Co Down, in June 1985, after tripping her foot in a broken paving stone. The Department of the Environment, which denied liability, was granted a six-week stay to consider an appeal.

She was awarded £12,000 for pain and suffering with the remainder made up of interest and the loss of her wages as a secretary. Miss Maguire, 29, said: "My ankles were twisted and the left one was bleeding. I was crying and I had to lean on my aunt to get home."

"I still get pain in the ankle when I walk a long distance or have to stand a long time."

Mr Justice Pringle said that despite doubts and suspicions he had reached the conclusion that Miss Maguire fell because of a defect in the pavement. Miss Maguire, from Newry, was convicted last June of taking part in a terrorist attack at the base at Osnabruck, Germany, in 1989.

Falklands await Argentine visitor

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE daughter of the Argentine Foreign Minister is to visit the Falkland Islands with her family. They will travel on Swiss passports because of the Falklands ban on entry by anyone using an Argentine passport.

The trip is seen as continuing a charm offensive by the Buenos Aires Government. The Foreign Minister, Guido Di Tella, sent Christmas cards

to all 2,000 islanders, enclosing photographs of his nine grandchildren and expressing hopes that one of them could visit the islands on non-Argentine passports.

His daughter, Paula Christian-Gaul, who is married to a Swiss national, is due to visit with her husband and four children and may arrive on Saturday.

The Foreign Office said yesterday it was up to the islanders to decide whether to admit the family. Andrew

Gurr, the islands' chief executive, said: "Most people see this as a private visit and they will be treated accordingly."

Islanders compared the Christmas cards to advertising junk mail and said they were a blatant attempt at political propaganda. In his card, Señor Di Tella said: "I know well that the fact that so many Argentines have two passports is considered by you as evidence of disloyal behaviour. Actually, we consider this to be very practical with no further implications."

There are no direct air or sea links between the Falklands and Argentina, and the family would have to travel on a cruise line or on a flight from Chile. Their visit has provoked intense discussion within Argentina, and there are hints that it may be postponed because of the controversy.

Señor Di Tella is due to visit Britain this month for talks with the Government on a new fishing agreement for the waters around the Falklands.

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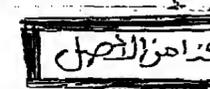
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Parents are found hanged months after daughter dies

By ADRIAN LEE

THE parents of a schoolgirl who was found dead with a tie looped round her neck after being scolded about her untidy room were discovered hanged yesterday.

Michael Henry, 37, and his wife, Barbara, 38, had struggled to cope with the loss of their daughter Michelle, 12, last October, relatives said. It is believed that Mr and Mrs Henry left a son, Derek Francis, 24, the girl's uncle, who came across Michelle's body, also found her parents. Both were hanging from a staircase at the family home in Montpellier, Bristol.

Granville Francis, Mrs Henry's father, said: "They were very close to Michelle and they obviously couldn't

come to terms with what had happened." Vida Tucker, Mrs Henry's cousin, said: "We are a very close-knit family. Michelle's death hit us all very hard. Her parents never got over her death and clearly they just couldn't handle it any more."

"I saw them a few days ago and, although they were smiling, under the surface they were both completely shattered. It takes time to come to terms with a tragedy like Michelle's death and I knew they could never forget it."

A verdict of accidental death was recorded on Michelle by Paul Forrest, the Avon Coroner. He said he had severe doubts whether a girl of her age could deliberately plan to take her own life. Michelle

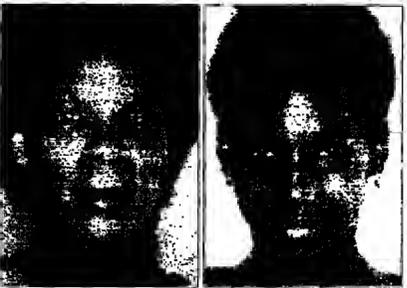
had been reprimanded by her uncle, a hotel worker who lives with the family, over her untidy bedroom. The next morning she was discovered with a blue silk tie looped round her neck and tied to a door.

After the inquest Mrs Henry, who worked on a project for the homeless, had said: "We are desperately trying to come to terms with her tragic death but I don't know how. She was a very happy and sensible girl and I just cannot see her killing herself. We used to tell her off quite a lot for being untidy and she would be a bit grumpy for a while but it would never last."

Avon and Somerset police were not looking for anyone in connection with the two deaths. A spokesman said: "We are still investigating the exact chain of events."

At the inquest last November Michelle's uncle said he had found her body the morning after scolding her. "I had words with her the night before about her room being untidy and I did not want to trouble her so I went downstairs to make myself a drink."

"Later on I knocked on the door two or three times and there was no reply. I pushed my way into the room and saw Michelle lying on the floor. I thought she had passed out or was sick. But then I noticed the tie had been knotted around the door handle and I realised she was dead."



Barbara Henry, left, had said she was trying to come to terms with the death of her daughter Michelle

Residents of home 'abused'

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

SEVERELY mentally handicapped residents of a home run by fundamentalist Christians were sexually abused, forced to eat horse meat and kept in cold, damp and unhygienic conditions, according to a BBC investigation. Hundreds of thousands of pounds of taxpayers' money remains unaccounted for, it alleges.

Lothian is the subject of investigations by Lothian and Borders Police and social services officials. Conditions at the home, where 32 vulnerable residents lived, was also the subject of an adjournment debate last night introduced by John Horne Robertson, the Labour MP for East Lothian. The allegations have been made by a number of people involved with the home in a BBC Scotland programme to be broadcast tomorrow night. Council inspectors found resi-

dents wearing their overcoats in cold, damp cottages heated only by a single-bar electric fire. They had been fed pony meat and there was no professional cook.

A male care worker is alleged to have sexually abused male residents and Mr Horne Robertson said that much of the £400,000 paid by the Department of Social Security each year for the care of the residents was siphoned off by the Algrade Trust for its own purposes.



Girlie Show presenters lining up yesterday are, left to right, Sara Cox, Rachel Williams and Clare Gorham

New lad takes a back seat as 'yoof' TV gives us girls behaving badly

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

AFTER "oew lad" comes "new lass", accompanied by purple lipstick, pierced lips and a litany of bawdy jokes. Channel 4's *The Girlie Show*, billed as "all mouth and no trousers", promises to fill the Friday post-pub television slot with an hour of women behaving badly. It will be presented by a female trio comprising a bisexual former lingerie model, a journalist and a barmaid.

The show turns Seventies sexism upside down: this time men are the target of lechery and lewd jokes. While oew lad was happy to drink beer and watch football as he flicked through his copy of *Loaded* magazine, his female counterpart is fighting back with an assertive laugh at his expense.

Controlled and sexually confident, new lass spreads a lot of time in nightclubs talking about sex. She parties hard, drinks a lot and dares her partner to wax his chest hair. She is proud of her own body and horrified by political correctness. *The Girlie Show*, which

will fill the Friday night slot vacated by *The Word*, hopes to provide a female perspective to the traditional late-night youth programme with its sex talk, interview and music format. Regular features will include Toilet Talk, in which night-clubbing girls are interviewed in the ladies about issues of importance, generally men, and Viewers'

Husbands, in which women are invited to submit photos of their partners in various ridiculous and skimpy outfits. Courtney Gibson, one of the programme's two women producers, said at yesterday's launch that the show's presenters are normal girls who reflect 1990's womanhood. Rachel Williams, 27, deemed "a towering inferno of femine

fatality," is a New York-based model who used to model underwear for a living and has posed nude for *Playboy*, Sara Cox, 21, from Bolton, and 29-year-old Clare Gorham, a former writer for *Pride* magazine, are newcomers to television.

"These girls are not just decorative," Ms Gibson said. "What you see is what you get. They just want to have fun." *The Girlie Show* is born of a long line of youth magazine programmes that like to style themselves as "TV with attitude". They pride themselves on the unpredictability of live audiences and are adept at pushing back the boundaries of taste.

"Yoof" TV, as it became known, was mothered by Janet Street Porter and appeared in the 1980s with Channel 4's *Network 7*, a teen programme mixing music with chat. *Def II* and *Rapids* were followed by *The Word*, which disappeared last April after complaints that it breached taste guidelines. *Passengers* and *Eurotrash*. *The Girlie Show*, to go out on January 26, promises to keep up their bad name.

TV sex programme was too explicit

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE ITV programme *The Good Sex Guide Abroad* has been censured for showing an explicit scene of female masturbation.

The Independent Television Commission ruled that Carlton Television, maker of the programme, had not used sufficient "tact and discretion" when it showed women at a masturbation course at an American clinic and some of the techniques taught.

The commission suggested it would have been better for

Carlton to have included an explanation of the techniques in written material accompanying the programme. It rejected Carlton's defence that an instructional series on sex could not achieve its educational purpose without some degree of explicit detail.

In a separate ruling, the commission said that Granada was wrong to include a story about rape involving a 15-year-old couple in the children's hospital drama series *The Word*.

Marie Claire editor joins US exodus

By CAROL MIDDLELEY

GLENDIA BAILEY, the energetic force behind *Morie Claire* magazine, has joined the exodus to America by the editors of women's magazines in Britain.

Miss Bailey, 36, is to leave the glossy magazine she has edited since its inception seven years ago and follow the well-trodden path to New York where she has been appointed editor of the American version of the magazine.

Staff were told of the move at their Blackfriars office in London yesterday. No successor has been announced.

Known for her Derbyshire accent and securing a circulation figure of about 430,000, Miss Bailey, who features in a current American Express television advertisement, was the colourful subject of the Cutting Edge documentary *Absolutely Morie Claire*. She has been credited with securing 11 awards for the magazine.

Miss Bailey, who is unmarried but will be accompanied to New York by her partner, follows in the footsteps of the journalist Tina Brown who left Britain to edit *Vanity Fair* and, more controversially, *The New Yorker*.

Other editors who went after Miss Brown include Vicki Woods, of *Harpers & Queen*, Linda Kelsey, of *She*, Marcelle d'Argy Smith, of *Cosmopolitan*, and Francine Lawrence, of *Country Living*, who have all left their jobs in the past few months.



Bailey was subject of TV documentary

Media, page 21

Estate champion stabbed to death

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A COMMUNITY leader may have paid with his life for arguing with thieves when they dumped a stolen car, police said yesterday. Alan Whitehouse, 41, chairman of the Hamlet residents association in West Bromwich, West Midlands, was stabbed to death. His body was found close to a Ford Fiesta that had been driven around the area by thieves.

Mr Whitehouse, a window cleaner, was eager to improve the area and had said that if he won the National Lottery he would pay for closed-circuit television to make the streets safer. He was renowned for cooking Indian and Chinese meals which he gave away to neighbours.

Carol, his wife, said yesterday: "He believed that things like breaking the law should be stopped. If he had seen anything he would have gone up and said his piece and then just walked away. He would tell them to clear off, that they were doing wrong." She

appealed for information about her husband's movements after leaving his local pub, the Oliver Cromwell, at 1am on Saturday. He was found an hour later by couple walking their dog on a nearby playing field.

Superintendent Dave Unwin, leading the inquiry, said Mr Whitehouse had died as a result of a frenzied attack which could have involved several people. "He was a member of society that cared about the problems in the area. This is a waste of a life of a guy who was well-liked in the community, a guy that had a normal family life and enjoyed his pint."

Adam Harris, 27, Mr Whitehouse's stepson, said: "He was a good bloke and everybody loved him. He would help anybody. He was good for the community and if he was out on his window round and an old-age pensioner wanted a bulb changing or some milk fetched in he would do it."

Bank fights back over loan debts

By PAUL WILKINSON

A COUPLE who successfully sued Lloyds Bank over had mortgage advice yesterday faced a counter claim for tens of thousands of pounds. Julia Verity and Richard Spindler were awarded £77,529 damages in September after winning a landmark court rule. They had successfully argued at the High Court that the bank had wrongly advised them in 1988 to borrow £150,000 to buy a house in their home town of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, to renovate and sell for a profit.

Ms Verity, 55, a teacher, and Mr Spindler, 36, an accountant, had hoped to sell the £126,000 property for £160,000 within 12 months but after spending £25,000 on improvements, the house market collapsed and it was two years before they could dispose of the property for £135,000. Another house owned by Mr Spindler had to be sold to help to meet interest charges on their mortgages. Last September Judge Rob-

ert Taylor, sitting in Leeds, ruled that the couple's bank manager had given them bad advice on the property market. Yesterday Lloyds returned to the High Court in Leeds to counter claim money from four loans the couple had taken out for their scheme. John MacKenzie, representing the couple, argued that because of last September's judgment, all the bank was entitled to was the proceeds of the investment property, even though it did not meet the outstanding debts.

However Gregory Mitchell, for Lloyds, said that if that were correct it would be possible for a person to renege on a £1 million loan if he could prove bad advice had led to a £10 loss. He said that even allowing for last year's settlement the couple still owed Lloyds £27,851 plus interest outstanding on their loans. Outside court Ms Verity said the bank was trying to ruin them financially. The trial continues.

Cider drinker sues over mug in pub

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

A WOMAN is suing a former publican and his wife, claiming she suffered brain damage from lead poisoning after repeatedly drinking cider from a painted ceramic mug. Marian Bloom, 41, was a patron of the Queen's Head in Stradbroke, Suffolk, where she invariably used the mug, the High Court was told yesterday.

She is suing Frederick Farrow and his wife, Mary, for £50,000 for pain, suffering and the loss of her prospects of becoming a solicitor. Mr and Mrs Farrow, who deny liability, no longer run the pub but still live in Stradbroke.

Mrs Bloom began drinking from the mug in May 1987, her counsel, Susan Rodway, told Judge Bathurst Norman. She would drink up to five pints of cider on Friday nights and Sunday lunchtimes and call in at the pub two or three



Bloom: she still drinks at the Queen's Head

other times a week. She began to suffer stomach cramps and nausea, but hospital tests in October 1987 revealed nothing as no one suspected lead poisoning.

Two months later Mrs Bloom suffered severe bouts of dizziness and her words became jumbled. She had an epileptic seizure and went into a coma for three days. Miss

Rodway said that a junior doctor diagnosed lead poisoning. Mrs Bloom's body was found to have accumulated approximately ten times the lead a human being could absorb safely.

Giving evidence, Mrs Bloom, a Canadian-born mother of three, said she had been in the pub with friends one Saturday lunchtime when another customer had come in with a box of mugs. Mrs Farrow had offered the box to Mrs Bloom's party, asking each of them to choose one for personal use. From then on, Mrs Bloom said, she had always been served cider in the same mug.

Collin, her husband, said the mug was identified as the source of the poisoning after the local environmental health department asked him to think of anything that his wife used but he did not.

Mr and Mrs Farrow maintain that it was Mrs Bloom's own decision to choose the

mug, which had then become her property. They accuse her of deliberately exaggerating her disabilities for financial gain. Miss Rodway said her client was claiming negligence and breach of contract under the Sale of Goods Act. This required that the cider should have been of "merchantable quality" and the container in which it was served reasonably fit for the purpose.

Mrs Bloom said she still drank at the Queen's Head. Asked by Andrew Prynne, QC, for Mr and Mrs Farrow, whether she had given up alcohol, she laughed and replied: "No." When he asked her if her usual intake was a lot to drink, she said: "Is it?" She said she got "merry" from drinking the cider.

Mrs Bloom said she could not quantify the brain damage she had suffered. "I just know I'm not the same as I used to be." The case continues.

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Newbury protesters face eviction from bypass base

BY NIGEL WILLIAMSON AND TIM JONES

EVIDENCE against "professional protesters" compiled by a private detective agency will be used by government solicitors next week in legal proceedings to evict the tree-house dwellers delaying construction of the Newbury bypass.

The High Court will be asked to grant possession orders on four sites occupied by the demonstrators, many of whom are associated with militant environmental groups such as Earth First! and Road Alert. A number of individuals have been identified from previous anti-road protests by Brays, a Southampton-based detective agency also employed by the Government at Twyford Down and for the M11 protest in east London.

A spokeswoman for the Highways Agency, which is building the nine-mile bypass, said: "The names from one site all come up again at the others." She said that Brays had passed on the names and evidence to the Treasury Solicitor, and further action was planned to seek possession of at least half a dozen other

camps along the proposed A34 route.

Police have expressed concern about the role of highly organised radical groups, sometimes known as "eco-warriors". A Special Branch dossier names Earth First! as a main "direct action" group.

Earth First! was founded by Jason Torrance, 24, who was one of ten people jailed over the Twyford Down protest.



Bentham: said business opposed route of road

The group's newsletter carries a "destruction hotline" number with a Reading code and asks supporters to ring and "leave your number so you can be contacted to help stop work". The group has established a "safe camp" to accommodate protesters arriving from other parts of the country.

The organisation is on the Internet and offers a legal helpline for arrested protesters. It also advises on how to claim state benefits and prevent the local jobcentre finding unwelcome employment.

Earth First!'s current newsletter bears the motto "breaking something is the only way" in Welsh and describes itself as "based on a concept of non-hierarchical organisation, direct action and the empowerment of individuals to confront the ecological catastrophe facing our planet".

Emma Must, 29, a former librarian, and Rebecca Lush, 23, a politics student from Hampshire, founder members of Road Alert, are also taking a prominent role. Both spent a month in Holloway

prison for their activities at the Twyford Down protest.

The eviction move came as local businessmen claimed the £100 million bypass was in the wrong place and should be on the eastern side of the town, close to industry. Yesterday, Adrian Foster-Fletcher, who runs a recruitment agency, said: "I am totally opposed to the bypass, particularly on the route they are now ploughing through. It is disruptive and divisive."

"But if there must be a bypass it should be built on the east side of the town where most of the business is," John Bentham, another local businessman, said. "Basically, we are talking about the destruction of beautiful English countryside. If the bypass has to be built they should consider the tunnel option or other solutions."

Another businessman, Clive Osborne, said: "The destruction just seems to be too great. In any event, it is being built in the wrong place, on the wrong side of town from where the industries are." David Rendel, the Liberal Democrat MP for



Demonstrators tie themselves to a tree. Other eco-warriors have been identified as "professional protesters"

Newbury, said he remained "totally convinced" that most people and businesses wanted the bypass. He was backed by Newbury Chamber of Commerce, which said it was certain that most of its mem-

bers were fully behind it. A spokesman for Racal Vodafone, the largest employer in Newbury, said: "We are very supportive of the bypass."

Police made 34 arrests yesterday as protesters continued

to disrupt clearance work. By 11am, about 100 small trees had been cleared from a site at the northern end of the bypass route. About 20 demonstrators were later perched in the trees. Copying tactics used

against the destruction of Canadian forests, campaigners have driven nails into some trees and left notices warning that "felling" them with chainsaws could be highly dangerous.

High Court bans firm's advert for bald cure

A COMPANY that claimed baldness could be cured by standing upside down was forbidden from advertising its remedies by the High Court yesterday.

Quest Hair Research and Derek Tubb, the director, were ordered to stop publishing advertisements for a book, *Natural Cure for Baldness*, and a hair-restoring formula called Restore.

John Bridgeman, Director-General of the Office of Fair Trading, which brought the action, said: "Claims made for the book and the formula left consumers in no doubt that they would provide a cure for baldness. The 'cure' outlined in the book amounted to standing on your shoulders for a short period each day."

Evidence from the Office of Fair Trading included testimony from a consultant trichologist who said there was no cure for hereditary baldness.

The director-general sought the injunction after receiving complaints from the Advertising Standards Authority that Quest had continued to publish misleading advertisements despite promising that it would stop.

Mr Bridgeman said: "This was a particularly blatant and persistent attempt to mislead consumers. Companies should be in no doubt that the Office of Fair Trading will take firm action in such circumstances."

Protest to Bottomley over arts funding

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE artistic director of the Royal Court Theatre, Stephen Daldry, the actress Eleanor Bron and the jazz musicians John Dankworth and Cleo Laine are to join a protest today against cuts in spending on the arts and museums.

Sir Michael Tippett and the sculptor Sir Anthony Caro are among prominent figures who have sent messages of support to the National Campaign for the Arts. Speakers at its "Arts Alert Day" will be introduced by Melvyn Bragg.

The campaigners are angered by the Chancellor's decision to cut the arts budget by £8.5 million over the next two years. Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, has agreed to receive a letter arguing that the arts are among our greatest national assets and asking her to "restore the level of funding in real terms to what it was at the time of the 1992 general election".

The conductor Sir Charles Mackerras said: "Like so many people inside and outside the artistic professions, I am horrified that this phillistine Government continually reduces its already miserly support for the arts just when Britain's artistic institutions are flourishing."

This morning there will be a meeting at the Playhouse Theatre and, this afternoon, a lobby of Parliament.

Number crunchers chalk up 55 years

BY IAN MURRAY

FIFTY-FIVE years ago, beer was 10d (4p) a pint and the average house cost less than £2,000. Now beer is £1.49 and houses average £63,000. According to the Central Statistical Office, it now costs more than £1 to buy what sold for a shilling (5p) in 1941, the year the CSO was founded on Winston Churchill's orders.

Britain's principal collector of economic statistics has produced a numerical snapshot of the intervening years to mark its birthday today. In April it will merge with the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys to collate all the nation's statistics.

The CSO was set up in the same building in Horseguards Road as the War Cabinet. Its mission was to reduce the time spent arguing about statistics by producing reliable figures on which to base decisions crucial to the war effort.

After proving its worth in war, the CSO became an essential part of the machinery of peacetime government. Its responsibilities expanded to include the retail price index and the trade figures.

Today's publication, based on the CSO's records over 55 years, shows that the number of private cars has grown from 19 million to more than 20 million, and petrol no longer rationed, is 30 times more expensive. Over those years the population has grown by almost 10 million to 56.7 million, of whom almost one in six is over 64 — double



Churchill: needed reliable statistics

the proportion of 1941. Divorces have soared from 7,000 to 160,000 a year and births outside marriage from 53 per 1,000 to 321.

The year the CSO was created Bob Dylan, Placido Domingo and Faye Dunaway were born and James Joyce and Virginia Woolf died. The Marx brothers' *The Big Store* was competing for audiences with *The Maltese Falcon*.

THE TIMES ABERLOUR CROSSWORD CHAMPIONSHIP
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Managers are accused of manslaughter by sending out the *Pescado* unfit to sail

Novice crew of six 'killed by executive negligence'

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

SIX novice sailors were sent to their deaths aboard an unseaworthy trawler that capsized off the Cornish coast, a court was told yesterday. In a rare prosecution, two executives of the company that owned the vessel are charged with manslaughter.

The 60-ton *Pescado*, which sailed from Falmouth, Cornwall, was alleged to have had one inadequate lifeboat, no emergency beacon, a broken radio, a faulty compass, a faulty autopilot, obscured navigation lights and an invalid safety certificate.

Francis Gilbert, QC, for the prosecution at Bristol Crown Court, said four other crew had refused to serve on the trawler when it set out on February 25, 1991, to fish for scallops. There was no further contact. By March 8, when the body of the woman cook was washed up near St Austell, it was determined the ship had foundered with the loss of all hands. The following month



Alan Ayres, left, and Joseph O'Connor: breach of duty was a gross negligence, the court was told

the wreck was found on the seabed in 250ft of water, 13 miles south off Dodman Point, Cornwall. On October 4, another body was recovered by a trawler not far from the wreck. In May the next year, the remains of part of a third body were found. No other bodies were recovered. The Marine Accident Investigation

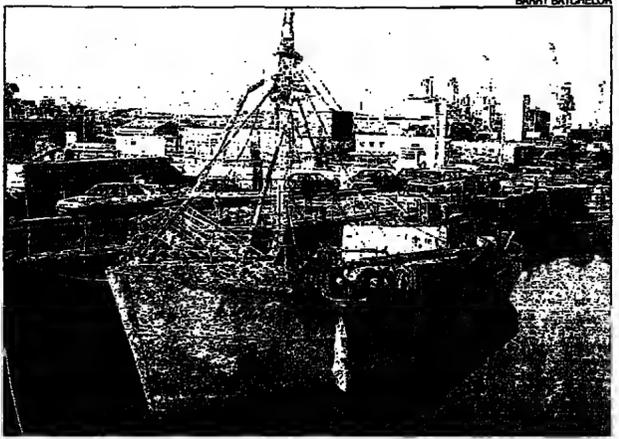
Bureau passed its findings to the Devon and Cornwall police, who had the wreck raised on September 20, 1993, and taken to Devonport Dockyard. In court, Joseph O'Connor, 44, the managing agent of the company Guideday, and the managing director, Alan Ayres, 56, denied manslaughter

between February 24 and March 9, 1991. The charges allege that the two men, both from Plymouth, were in breach of a duty to the crew to take reasonable care for their safety, and that the breach of duty amounted to gross negligence, which was a substantial cause of the disaster.

Mr Gilbert said there would be evidence that the *Pescado* did not sink because of a collision with another vessel but that she capsized.

The lost crew were skipper Neil Curry, 28, from South Uist, Western Isles; cook JoAnn Thomas, 23, from Plymouth; Peter Birley, 34, of Fleetwood, Lancashire; Steven Hardy, 30, from Plymouth; Sean Kelly, 17, from Brixham, Devon; and Adrian Flynn, 21, from Lincoln.

Mr Gilbert said that, in 1990, a skipper found the *Pescado* to be unsafe, unseaworthy and dangerous. The skipper and three other men who had set out initially from Plymouth decided to leave the vessel on arrival at Falmouth.



Lost with all hands: the *Pescado*, said to have had faulty equipment

This left only Mr Curry and Mr Birley as crew. They were joined by the four others who died.

Mr Gilbert said: "These were the innocents who were on that vessel when it sailed. None of this crew had any qualifications. They were in effect novices sent to their deaths."

In the Guideday company.

Mr Ayres owned half the shares. Mr O'Connor, who provided the fishing experience, had gone bankrupt but in 1990 was in control of the vessel when it was refitted "from being barely more than being fit for scrap".

After complaints from the 1990 crew about the absence of a lifeboat, Mr O'Connor produced one from his garden. It

was lashed to the railings instead of hanging free. Regulations required two.

The vessel was only 12 minutes' flying time from the rescue helicopters of the Royal Naval Air Station Culdrose when she sank and some of the crew would have survived had statutory safety equipment been on board. The trial continues.

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES

Alive and kicking: why 12 million women want to be cheerleaders, in the Magazine

Elephant v academic: the animal behaviourist's biggest challenge, in Weekend

PLUS Vision, the 7-day TV and radio guide

Captain dies in fight to save crippled vessel

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE skipper of a fishing boat died and five crew members were injured when an oil-fired stove exploded, spraying the crew with flames and fuel.

Paul Simpson, 43, from Jersey, is believed to have died when he became trapped below decks on the *Inconnu* as he struggled to control the fire and save his boat before she hit rocks at the foot of huge cliffs near the Old Man of Hoy off Orkney.

The accident happened shortly after midnight yesterday but the alarm was raised only seven hours later, when one crew member in a lifeboat was spotted by the *St Ola* car ferry. Choppy seas prevented the ferry launching her lifeboat but the captain, James Winterburn, manoeuvred his vessel alongside the raft, allowing the crewman to scramble up a ladder.

Andrew Watt, 32, suffering from cold and burns, asked the captain to search for his colleagues. A helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth and three lifeboats joined the operation.

Four other survivors were found at the bottom of the 1,000ft cliffs close to the wreckage of the *Inconnu*. They had stayed on board the 37ft crabber and jumped to safety

when the boat hit the rocks. The men, suffering from burns, cuts and exposure, were admitted to hospital on Orkney but later released.

Mr Watt, 32, of Dumbeth, Highland, managed to get on deck through the engine room with other crew members.

"The heat was so fierce it lifted the skin off my hands. I had a rope attached to the lifeboat wrapped round my wrist. I was screaming for the other boys to join me, but I was dragged over the side into the water."

"With my boots and heavy socks I was being dragged under. I thought I was going to drown, but I somehow managed to pull myself on to the raft." With flames shooting into the air from the *Inconnu*, Mr Watt fired off six flares but failed to attract a ship a mile away.

"I kept two flares and waited for hour after hour for the *St Ola* to pass. That was my last chance. There was a big swell running, but they managed to put down a rope ladder."

The search for Mr Simpson was called off at lunchtime yesterday. He leaves his wife, Mary, and their two young daughters.

AIR FRANCE

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THE TIMES

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Protesters Bottom over and funding

number cruncher pick up 55 year

Portillo buys British in defiance of his advisers

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE ARMY is to order its next generation of military ambulances from Land Rover after Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, ignored a recommendation to buy a rival Austrian vehicle.



£40 million boost: the Land Rover plant in Solihull

The contract for 700 British-made ambulances worth nearly £40 million is expected to be announced in the Commons during an Army debate tomorrow.

Officials from the Ministry of Defence procurement executive had favoured buying the Austrian Pinzgauer ambulance, made by Steyr Daimler Puch. In trials it was said to have provided a faster and smoother ride for injured troops.

However, the Land Rover also performed well and some defence sources said both vehicles had their good points. Although the Austrian bid was more expensive — apparently by about £60 million — the company said the long-term costs would be considerably cheaper than with Land Rover. This was one of the

claims that impressed officials when they examined the bids even though, technically, the Austrian vehicle exceeded the Army's requirements.

The Austrian company's claim of a more cost-effective "life cycle" was disputed by Land Rover, which has mounted an intensive lobbying campaign in the past few weeks to persuade Mr Portillo to buy British, warning of serious consequences for exports. Mr Portillo also faced

pressure from Tory MPs in the Midlands — where Land Rover is based — including Sir Norman Fowler, the former Tory party chairman.

When Mr Portillo became Defence Secretary he announced an order for American Apache attack helicopters for the Army, rejecting other bids including a European helicopter involving British companies. However, he was merely approving a decision taken by his predecessor, Mal-

colm Rifkind. Mr Portillo is currently deciding whether to order a midlife refit for the RAF's Tornado F3 air defence aircraft — equipping it with new missiles — or lease American F16 fighters for the next ten years. A decision to lease F16s will guarantee political opposition from Labour MPs and some Tories.

Anticipating the announcement of a Land Rover contract, David Clark, the Shadow Defence Secretary, said: "It looks as if a bit of common sense has finally prevailed. We found it incredible that the Government could even contemplate not giving the contract to Land Rover."

The Land Rover ambulance is a derivative of the four-wheel drive Defender, which is powered by a 2.5-litre turbo diesel engine. The chassis is strengthened by specialist body sections and can carry four stretchers. The Austrian Pinzgauer has a 2.4-litre diesel engine and a complex pneumatic suspension system.

Land Rover is also expected to be awarded a £125 million contract to supply up to 8,000 light utility trucks.

Weedkiller linked to frogs' decline

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

SCIENTISTS have established a link between the falling number of frogs and one of the world's biggest-selling weedkillers. Tests indicate that paraquat, used in gardens and on farms, can deform and kill tadpoles after becoming concentrated in certain pond weed.

All over the world frogs appear to be in decline and researchers are linking the fall with a number of possible factors, including rising temperatures, the thinning of the ozone layer and pollution. The findings indicate that weedkillers, which reach ponds from airborne sprays or from land near by, might play a role in the decline.

Scientists are calling for more research to screen the possible impact of a range of herbicides and how they interact with freshwater plants.

The research on paraquat was carried out at the University of Indiana, using the Rio Grande leopard frog.

English Nature, the Government's wildlife adviser, is holding a conference this month at Kew Gardens to promote the importance of garden design for the benefit of amphibians. Mary Gibson, a freshwater expert with the organisation, said yesterday that the findings could have important implications for households with garden ponds.

Zeneca Agrochemicals, a big manufacturer of paraquat, said it believed the weedkiller was safe but it would study the findings. Farmers are told to spray pesticides more than six metres from a water course but paraquat is exempt from this rule.

Solicitors 'fail to heed complaints'

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

MOST people who complain about solicitors are highly dissatisfied with the way the profession handles their complaint, according to a survey published by the Law Society today.

It shows that of a sample of 2,246 complainants to the Solicitors' Complaints Bureau, 67 per cent were unhappy with the outcome. Almost half thought the bureau, whose future is under scrutiny, was "heavily influenced in favour of solicitors and the legal profession" and believed that complaints were not investigated properly.

People who were told by the bureau that they did not have a valid complaint, or that their case was closed and that the bureau could not take the matter any further, were particularly dissatisfied. The survey by the Law Society's

research and policy planning unit is the most comprehensive to date on the handling of complaints.

Most complaints in the survey were over conveyancing and divorce or family work, although there was also a significant proportion generated by personal injury cases. The most common complaints were excessive delay (more than 50 per cent), failure to respond to telephone calls or letters and failure to follow instructions.

The next largest category was excessive charges, with almost a third complaining, compared with 6 per cent of respondents in a survey in 1990. The bureau, based in Leamington, costs the profession in England and Wales £9 million a year and has been criticised by solicitors for being costly and interfering.



Monk on murder charge attacked

The Buddhist monk who has admitted killing Johnnie Mashedier was attacked and abused by a 200-strong crowd when taken to re-enact the crime at a temple cave. Yodchart Suaphoo, 21, was punched in the face by the nephew of the abbot at the Thum Kaapoon temple before police pulled their guns to drive away the crowd.

The Mashedier family, from Wincle, Cheshire, have been upset by pictures of her body appearing in the Thai media. The law graduate, 23, who had been on holiday, died after being pushed into a ravine. Police said yesterday that the murder investigation should be completed in two weeks.

Sickness delays Maxwell verdict

The jury in the Maxwell fraud trial was discharged for the day yesterday after a woman member became ill. Six have had chest infections during more than 47 hours of deliberations at Chichester Rents, the Old Bailey annexe. Kevin Maxwell, 36, Ian Maxwell, 39, and a former ex-Maxwell aide, Larry Trachtenberg, 42, deny conspiracy to defraud pension funds.

Five arrested

Four security guards and a rickshaw driver were arrested in connection with the murder last week of James Skinner, a British tourist, in the southern Indian state of Karnataka, the Press Trust of India said.

Body found

Police are trying to identify a decomposed body found inside a submerged Volkswagen car at Shoreham-by-Sea harbour, West Sussex. The body and car are believed to have been in the water for months.

Sex case settled

Natasha Ford, 13, from Acocks Green, Birmingham, has won £100 compensation after claiming Raza newspapers sexually discriminated against her by refusing to give her a paperboy's round.

Sheep cleared

More than 30,000 sheep on 20 farms in Snowdonia have been released from "movement and slaughter" restrictions imposed after the 1986 Chernobyl disaster. However, 220,000 are still affected.

Smashing sleep

A pensioner slept as a car went out of control and smashed into the roof of her house. Doris Allen, 74, of Stubbington, Hampshire, was woken by police after the accident. No one in the car was badly hurt.

Shepherd gives Muslim pledge

Shepherd and removed herds above to visit a mosque attached to the Al-Sadiq and Al-Hadith schools in Kilburn, north-west London. The Education Secretary met some of the 300 pupils, who follow the national curriculum and receive Muslim instruction. The Shia schools, which opened in 1991, will have their first GCSE candidates this year. The minister promised to consider fresh applications from Muslim schools to join the state system.



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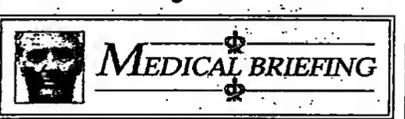
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Silent invader kills by stealth



A CAMPAIGN to alert the public to the dangers of carbon monoxide, a silent and odourless killer, is concentrating on warning householders of the need to keep gas fires and other slow combustion heaters in good repair and to maintain ventilation in living rooms.

The public already understands that in some rented accommodation new tenants need to cast a critical eye over any gas appliances. Also heaters in holiday accommodation abroad must be treated with care and a through draught maintained.

Carbon monoxide is formed when there is incomplete combustion of carbon fuel. Although North Sea gas is not in itself poisonous, it will give out carbon monoxide if any undetected fault in the gas appliance results in its incomplete burning.

Some solid fuel burners, if they have blocked flues, if the range leaks, or if there is poor ventilation in the room, can equally well kill somebody who is huddled over them for warmth. I have always regarded the kitchen range in my Norfolk cottage with some suspicion since I was told that one day, when the doors and windows to the kitchen had been shut, the previous tenant's Labrador had been found unconscious beside it.

The sources of carbon monoxide are legion — poisoning from car exhausts has replaced that provided by gas

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US warning

India told nuclear test would bring cuts in aid

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON AND CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN BOMBAY

AMERICA, detecting signs that India may be preparing to conduct a nuclear test, has warned Delhi that economic benefits from the United States will be frozen if any such explosion takes place. The private message, delivered by officials including Frank Wisner, the American Ambassador, came after American intelligence reported that India may be moving closer to a test.

The prospect of economic exclusion appeared to make little difference last night when India announced that it would deploy the medium-range Prithvi missile, a weapon Western experts fear could be used to carry nuclear warheads against Pakistan. A proposed test firing of the surface-to-surface missile was postponed in the eastern state of Orissa yesterday, but was to be rescheduled.

In the first use of a little-known American statute, the Glenn Amendment, America emphasised to the Narasimha Rao Government its requirement to cut off all economic aid, military aid, credits, bank loans and export licences. The legislation applies to any country testing a nuclear weapon except the four other nuclear powers: Britain, France, Russia and China.

Most important for India, the law also dictates that the United States must oppose World Bank loans and other international means of lending to the offending country. The loss of such benefits would cost Delhi billions.

It borrows about \$2 billion (£1.3 billion) a year from the World Bank and receives \$173 million annually in economic aid from Washington. The curb on export licences means, in theory, India would be unable to buy even a

computer from America. India, the third largest recipient of World Bank loans after China and Mexico, could easily face pariah status. America, as the leading shareholder in the international organisation, has the greatest number of votes in the board's approval of foreign loans and would certainly be supported in its banishment of India by Japan and Germany, the bank's second and third leading shareholders, which oppose nuclear testing.

Last year, Mr Rao suspended a test launch of the Prithvi before visiting the United States, on the basis that it would have sent mixed signals to Washington. But he has been under pressure from the main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party to take a more muscular approach before elections planned for April.

India has complained that American policy favours the nuclear powers and discriminates against others. Mr Rao has argued that the five should dismantle their nuclear arsenals before any worldwide test ban is agreed. India denies that it is planning a nuclear test and says the United States misread satellite photographs of troop movements. The Government is adamant that it will not give up the nuclear option, primarily because of the perceived nuclear threat from Pakistan.



Russian soldiers fire their heavy artillery at the village of Pervomaiskoye during the second day of intense fighting against Chechen rebels

Battle of blood and propaganda

FROM CARLOTTA GALL OUTSIDE PERVOMAISKOYE, THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW, AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

FIGHTING carried on into a second day over the village of Pervomaiskoye yesterday, although President Yeltsin had promised the Russian assault would be over by Monday night.

Field-guns rained shells on the houses, where about 200 fighters and about 100 hostages were said to be sheltering. With each charge the gunners, one of whom worked bare-chested in the bitter cold, turned away with their fingers in their ears. The attack looked more like a classical military assault than an operation to free hostages. The Russian authorities said that 29 of an estimated 116 hostages in the village had been freed and that 100 Chechen fighters had been killed. They put their own losses at six dead. Those figures could not be confirmed. The longer the fight continues, the more embarrassing it promises to be for President Yeltsin.

The commandos were hampered by thick cloud cover, which prevented helicopter gunships from flying so many raids on Monday. The rebels kept up their fierce resistance with heavy machineguns and mortars. Returning Russian soldiers said they had been fighting house to house inside the village.

Their defences are extremely well organised. Major General Aleksandr Mikhailov, the Russian intelligence spokesman, said. "They have dug deep trenches that connect to the houses," he said, adding that there were many snipers.

Hostages who had somehow escaped from the maelstrom had spent the night caked in mud without heat in a concrete building in the nearby village of Sovetskoye. As they came out to a water pump in the yard, guards, who clearly had instructions not to let hostages speak to reporters, pushed journalists away.

While the fighting continued, the Russian and Chechen propaganda machines waged a battle to win the ear of the media. Independent information about events in Pervomaiskoye has been scarce because reporters have been prevented from getting close to the village. For the media, this has

meant a difficult task sifting through a barrage of propaganda to find the truth.

Many reporters have been wary about official reports from Chechnya since the end of 1994, when Moscow denied for days it had anything to do with air raids on the rebel region. For their part, the Chechen separatists have a record of inflating casualty figures inflicted on the Russians and of exaggerating their own military gains.

The result is that more than 30 hours after the Russians began their assault, it was hard to shed light on what was going on in the village.

On Monday, Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) said the attack started after the "Lone Wolf" group led by Salman Raduyev had killed a group of elders from the region of Dagestan who came to negotiate. The FSB said the rebels also killed six policemen they held hostage, hanging two of them, while President Yeltsin said the gunmen had received an order from separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev to start shooting their hostages.

Raduyev swore his fighters had killed nobody. By yesterday afternoon there was no confirmation about the massacre of the elders and a policeman hostage who was freed said none of his colleagues had been killed. Casualty figures given by both sides have differed greatly. Russia says it has killed a total of 250 Chechens with the loss of six servicemen, while Chechnya claims Russia has lost more than 100 and just eight of its own men.



First Lady ready to face her Congress accusers

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

HILLARY CLINTON said yesterday that she would consider giving evidence voluntarily to congressional investigators if that would end the controversy that has been swirling around her for the past two weeks.

Such an appearance by a First Lady would be unprecedented and as painful as "having your teeth drilled", Mrs Clinton said. "If that is the kind of co-operation that is needed to end this matter, I am more than willing to do whatever it takes," she added.

Were Mrs Clinton to press her offer it would put her Republican enemies on the spot. She is a brilliant public performer who would be very hard to pin down and if they questioned her too aggressively, they could face a public backlash.

Yesterday Kenneth Starr, the Whitewater special prosecutor, summoned Carolyn Huber, a White House aide, in front of a grand jury to explain her mysterious discovery on January 4 of records detailing Mrs Clinton's legal work for Madison Guaranty, the bank at the heart of the Whitewater affair. Mr Starr had subpoenaed those records two years ago.

The Senate Whitewater committee meanwhile was aggressively questioning three past or present White House lawyers about a meeting on Whitewater they attended in November 1993.

One of the lawyers, William Kennedy, took notes which the committee obtained last month after threatening to take President Clinton to court. Republicans claimed an ambiguous line reading "Vacuum Rose law files" showed the White House sought to remove or destroy evidence of Mrs Clinton's connections with Madison, but Mr Kennedy vigorously contested that charge.

The Senate Whitewater committee has decided to continue its investigations beyond its February 29 deadline, meaning they will still well into the presidential election campaign.

Afrikaners bicker as apartheid party seeks fresh image

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

AS THE Afrikaner community battles to find its feet in South Africa's new political order, signs of strain are evident. The weekend launch of a pressure group that intends to unite Afrikaners could not have been more inauspicious. The rally was marred by scuffles after a group of right-wingers tried to set fire to the country's flag.

Backed by the former police commissioner, Johan van der Merwe, the Foundation for Equality Before the Law was formed in response to the arrest and pending prosecution of Magnus Malan, a former Defence Minister, and other apartheid-era security chiefs. It aims to fight for the restoration of their language and culture. Of particular concern is the marginalising of Afrikaners.

There is also frustration at the former ruling National Party's inability to influence African National Congress decisions and to protect Afrikaner interests. The nationalists are in disarray over how best to adapt. This was illustrated by the rumpus surrounding an Afrikaans Sunday newspaper report, which said that the party was about to dissolve.

Rapport disclosed a docu-

ment that proposed disbanding the party, replacing it with a Christian Democratic Alliance that would seek others opposed to the ANC.

Hours after F. W. de Klerk, the National Party leader and Second Deputy President, lambasted the report, he confirmed the thrust of the party was initiating a discussion on political realignment that could see the party name and flag disappear.

The party is in a tricky position. It is trying to maintain its Afrikaner support base while reaching out to black communities. "The National Party is trapped by its apartheid past and it carries too much political baggage to be a viable political force," said Professor David Welsh, of the University of Cape Town.

"You must put yourself in a new position to do that. That means a black leader." □ Secret files: General Constand Viljoen, who commanded forces against Cuban and East German-led troops in Angola in the 1980s and now heads a right-wing party, has asked for secret files kept on him by East Germany's secret service. (Reuters)

Leading article, page 17

Election pledge by new leader after Sierra Leone coup

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE head of the military Government in Sierra Leone, Captain Valentine Strasser, has been overthrown in a coup a month before scheduled elections to return the country to democracy. Captain Julius Maada Bio, his deputy, who has assumed power, has promised to stick to the election timetable.

State radio said that Captain Strasser, who was the youngest ruler in the world when he gained power in 1992 at the age of 26, had fled the country. The announcement was made by Lieutenant-Colonel Karifa Kargbo, the director of defence information.



Strasser: accused of trying to keep power

The organisation accused Captain Strasser, the head of the National Provincial Ruling Council, of trying to force it to pass decrees allowing him to stay in power. However, aides close to Mr Bio, 33, said he opposed holding an election while the civil war was going on. Under election law, Captain Strasser, 30, was still too young to be a candidate.

Britain yesterday expressed hopes that the elections would be held on time. Sierra Leone, one of three West African Commonwealth countries under military government, was criticised at the Commonwealth summit last year for its lack of democracy, but there were hopes that the impending vote, after four years of military rule, would bring the country greater stability.

The country, one of the world's ten poorest, has been increasingly tormented since 1991 by an uprising in the rural areas, spearheaded by dissident troops who have returned from peacekeeping operations in Liberia.

Last year they launched a series of attacks on Western-owned mines in the south-east and held a number of Europeans and Britons hostage. An estimated 10,000 people have been killed in the fighting.

Study blames gay urge on big brother

FROM QUENTIN LETTIS IN NEW YORK

HOMOSEXUALITY is more common among men who have older brothers, according to an American study. The reason may be biological or it may simply be that the treatment meted out to younger siblings in childhood influences their sexual orientation.

In a study of more than 600 middle-aged men, of whom half were gay, the rate of homosexuality rose with each additional older brother. In the sample, the rate of homosexuality among men who do not have older brothers fell to 45 per cent. For those who have one older brother it rose to 53 per cent, and 64 per cent for men who have two. Five of the seven men in the sample group who have four or more older brothers were

homosexual. The older brothers need not be alive, but people with half-brothers were not included in the test.

The report, published in the *American Journal of Psychiatry*, was based on research by Ray Blanchard, the head of clinical senology at the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry in Toronto. Mr Blanchard offered yesterday a biological explanation. "The foetus has no idea of its birth order," he said. "But the mother's body may be able to tell how many sons she has carried." He suggested that the mother's immune system somehow reacted in a way that altered the foetus of later sons.

Mr Blanchard added that "there will no doubt be socio-biological theories

that nature wants to cut down the competition for mates".

Colleagues at academic conferences had also suggested that the survey results may indicate an effect of the normal big brother-little brother relationships, or the way that parents subconsciously react to sons, or even of early sex games between children. "These kinds of explanations are really little more than people fishing around for an alternative to the biological reason," Mr Blanchard said.

Previous studies have claimed to prove that gay men tend to be older siblings, but Mr Blanchard's work is thought to be the first to concentrate solely on brothers.



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Bush and Major rejected chance to humiliate Iraq

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A FORMAL surrender of Iraqi forces after the success of the United States-led coalition campaign in 1991 was ruled out by former President Bush and John Major because they agreed it would be wrong to humiliate the Iraqi people.

The political decision, taken after a telephone call between Mr Bush and Mr Major as the coalition ground forces overran all Iraqi opposition, led a few days later to the low-key ceasefire in a tent at Safwan Air Base in southern Iraq.

The "ad hoc" ceasefire, attended by two senior Iraqi generals but no representative from the Baath ruling party, has been strongly criticised by Baroness Thatcher and other political figures — five years

New York: Iraq was reported ready to discuss the Security Council's resolution allowing limited oil sales in exchange for humanitarian goods, non-aligned diplomats said. Iraq has been crippled by sanctions since it invaded Kuwait in 1990. (Reuters)

after the Gulf War began — as one of the key elements that helped Saddam Hussein to survive as Iraq's President.

According to senior American diplomatic sources, Mr Bush, with the agreement of Mr Major, was opposed to the word "surrender" appearing in any formal ceremony because there was the expectation that the Iraqi people would rise up against their

leader within a matter of months after the defeat. "They did not want to humiliate the very people whom they were counting on to remove Saddam from power after the Iraqi defeat," a source said.

It was also felt that Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states would not support the demand for a formal surrender.

In all the talks between Washington and London, before and during the campaign, nobody considered how a ceasefire ceremony should be held or who should attend it, so as to underline to the Arab world — in particular, that Saddam had been defeated.

Leading up to the air campaign on the night of January 16 and 17, 1991, four key officials from London travelled frequently to Washington to agree on the political objectives of the war. One of the key issues discussed there was whether the forces should march on to Baghdad. The team from London made clear the British Government was opposed to the idea.

Yesterday General Norman Schwarzkopf, the American commander of the coalition forces in the Gulf, said there was "never, ever" a plan to go to Baghdad. He was speaking on BBC Radio in a response to Mr Bush's admission on US television that he "miscalculated" Saddam's staying power at the end of the war.

The lack of any contingency planning for a formal ceasefire ceremony was underlined when General Schwarzkopf was given just 48 hours to make the arrangements. Safwan was selected as the most convenient site and two Iraqi generals arrived at the tent to agree the ceasefire.

General Schwarzkopf said yesterday that arranging a formal and symbolic surrender might have helped to remove Saddam from power but the Arab mentality made such a thing very unlikely. "Unless we had had President Bush and John Major at that table, I do not think we ever would have got Saddam to sit at that table. It just would not have happened," he said.

Letters, page 17

'Britons trained Saddam guards'

By OLIVER AUGUST

FIVE retired SAS sergeants went to Iraq in 1978 to teach President Saddam Hussein's bodyguards how to protect him against sophisticated assassination attempts, according to a writer.

Martin Arostegui, who interviewed one of the SAS men, said that the British team showed Saddam's bodyguards how to eliminate would-be assassins in crowded streets without killing dozens of bystanders. They were trained in "killing villages" where dummy assassins are suddenly inflated along an assault course.

The difficulty in trying to capture Saddam during the Gulf War because of this training has been acknowledged by George Bush, the former American President.

In an interview to be shown on American television next week, Mr Bush said: "There we would be, downtown Baghdad, America occupying an Arab land, searching for this brutal dictator who had

the best security in the world, involved in an urban guerrilla war."

On the SAS men's advice, Saddam redesigned the flow of traffic in Baghdad to improve his security. Streets along which he travelled regularly had central dividing walls removed to allow his car to make a U-turn in the event of an ambush.

Mr Arostegui, who is the author of *Twilight Warriors*, a history of special forces, said: "They needed to be schooled in the basics to effectively protect their man when he came out among his people."

American special forces in the Gulf also told Mr Arostegui that Abu Abbas, one of the world's most wanted terrorists, was part of Saddam's force in Kuwait and escaped capture by them at the end of the Gulf War. US Navy Seals were tipped off by the Kuwaiti resistance and tried to find Abu Abbas among the fleeing Iraqi Army, but failed to catch him.



Set at infinity: galaxies and stars four billion times dimmer than can be observed with the naked eye, are pictured by the Hubble telescope

Hubble discovers a galaxy of galaxies

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

HUNDREDS of galaxies, some dating back to the universe's infancy, have been detected by the Hubble space telescope.

Aimed at an empty piece of sky in the direction of the Plough and instructed to gather light continuously for ten days over Christmas, the telescope has revealed stars and galaxies four billion times dimmer than those that can be seen with the naked eye.

Besides the classical spiral and elliptical galaxies, a bewildering array of different shapes and colours have been seen. At least 1,500 galaxies at various stages of

evolution appear in the pictures, astronomers from the Space Telescope Science Institute have told the American Astronomical Society meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

"We are clearly seeing some of the galaxies as they were more than ten billion years ago, in the process of formation," said Dr Robert Williams, director of the institute. "In archaeological terms it is equivalent to finding a royal city, but we don't know if we are seeing the most distant objects or not."

The target at which the telescope's deep field camera was pointed was very small — "about the size of a large

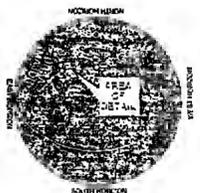
grain of sand held at arm's length," said Dr Williams. To a ground-based telescope, the area is basically an empty piece of sky. In the ten days from December 18 to 28, astronomers took 342 frames, 276 of which have been processed into a single image of deep space.

Though the area photographed is small, it is believed to be representative of a typical distribution of galaxies in space because the universe, statistically, looks the same in all directions. Separate images were taken in blue, red and infra-red light and combined to produce a "true-colour" view.

From the colours of the galaxies in the image, astronomers should be able to infer

the age, distance, and composition of the galaxies. Bluer objects either contain young stars or are closer, while redder objects contain older stars, or are further away. The image was compared with a core sample of the Earth, which would contain many layers of material laid

down over millions of years. In the Hubble image, stars and galaxies are seen ranging further and further into the universe and more and more distant in time. Some could be galaxies formed within a billion years of the Big Bang, but Dr Williams said it would take detailed analysis to be sure. "It's like looking down a long tube and seeing all these galaxies along the line of sight," said Dr Mark Dickinson, a member of the team. "The past 10 days have been an unbelievable experience." A key question the study may answer is how galaxies form. Astronomers do not understand how billions of stars in each galaxy come together to form a cluster.



Peking bars media from selling 'slanderous' economic reports

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

CHINA ruled yesterday that foreign news organisations' economic reporting must be regulated by the Communist Party's Xinhua news agency.

A Cabinet edict, citing national security, threatened punishment for news organisations with permission to sell economic information within China whose information "slanders" China or harms its national interests. It forbids Chinese customers from buying economic information from foreign organisations and allows Xinhua to determine subscription rates.

The crackdown triggered alarm bells in Hong Kong,

whose economy is heavily dependent on the free flow of information.

The proclamation says the regulations are intended to "safeguard the nation's sovereignty, protect the legal rights and interests of domestic users of economic information and promote the healthy development of our country's economic information industry."

Xinhua is empowered to "manage" foreign news agencies which must register within three months. There are two reasons for the newest regulations on foreign media operating inside China, which are tightly monitored. The first is

political. Peking has been anxious about foreign news penetrating China and from time to time jams electronic media or ejects particular journalists.

Overseas journalists must register with the Foreign Ministry, which assigns them their staff, including their maids, all of whom have security training. The journalists are forbidden to visit most other parts of China without official permission and if that is given, an official "minder" is usually assigned to the trip as well.

Equally political is the regime's dislike of news that conflicts with the official ver-

sion which is usually "good", while the foreign output may be pessimistic or at least balanced. Foreign journalists often obtain information which conflicts with the orthodox stories and when that is published abroad it is frequently relayed back into China via the BBC and the Voice of America.

There is an economic reason as well for the ban: Chinese official sources sell news to domestic customers. These are increasingly more willing to obtain foreign information which in China is almost always believed to be more accurate.

Woman spared fatal injection

FROM TOM RHODES
IN WASHINGTON

BORN on her grandmother's kitchen table to parents who soon would abandon her to a childhood of sexual abuse and alcoholism, Guinevere Garcia was perhaps destined for an infamous end.

That was to have come today when the 37-year-old faced a lethal concoction of drugs at Statesville Correctional Centre near Joliet to become the first woman executed in Illinois since 1938 and only the second in America since capital punishment was restored in 1976.

But Jim Edgar, the Governor of Illinois who has sent killers such as John Wayne Gacy to their deaths, took pity on Garcia yesterday after receiving hundreds of requests for clemency, including a high-profile demand from Bianca Jagger in her capacity as an Amnesty International official.

"The fact that Guinevere Garcia is a woman has not influenced my decision... She should never be free again," Mr Edgar said in a statement. "but I have concluded that the punishment decreed for her was not typical. Horrible as was her crime, it is an offence



Garcia: wanted to be executed for killing

comparable to those that the judges and jurors have determined over and over again should not be punishable by death.

The decision will have left the prisoner furious as she sat on Death Row at Dwight Women's State Prison in Chicago yesterday. Garcia, a teenage mother and prostitute who shot dead her husband, George, in 1991, had pleaded to be killed by state authorities.

Her lawyer had contended that the shooting had taken place while Mr Garcia was beating his wife.

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President Weizman tells Germans he cannot forgive

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN BONN

PRESIDENT WEIZMAN of Israel stunned Germany yesterday with a speech to parliament that set aside the usual diplomatic niceties and openly addressed the problems still dividing Germans and Jews.

Speaking in Hebrew to a special session of the two chambers of the German parliament, Mr Weizman said it was impossible for him to forgive Germany for the crimes committed by the Nazis. During his four-day visit to Germany, he said, he had heard "voices [of the six million victims of the Holocaust] crying to me from the earth".

"As President of the State of Israel, I can mourn for them and commemorate them, but I cannot forgive in their name," he told the deputies who included President Herzog and Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor. Mr Weizman, who was

As President of the State of Israel, I can mourn for [the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust] and commemorate them, but I cannot forgive in their name

a Royal Air Force pilot in the Second World War, said it was important that he speak in Hebrew to German deputies for Hebrew was "the language that was screamed in the gas chambers in the prayer Shema Israel".

The President tried to balance his criticism with a few optimistic remarks, emphasising that his use of Hebrew to a German audience was also "a symbol and proof of our rebirth".

However, the visit has been uncomfortable for the Germans from the outset. Plainly shocked by

a visit to Sachsenhausen concentration camp, Mr Weizman said later that he could not see how 40,000 Jews were able to still live in Germany. The remark was explained away by Israeli diplomats as a reflection of the President's Zionism. "He was simply saying that the Jews have a natural home in Israel," one diplomat said.

The remark stunned the Germans, however, and Rita Süßmuth, the parliamentary Speaker, told the Israeli head of state: "You are visiting a different, a democratic, a European

Germany that has learnt its lesson from hate and genocide, war and expulsion and is aware of its responsibility."

The same brittle tone has influenced the many German Jewish seminars that have been staged to coincide with the visit. At the Institute of German History at Tel Aviv University, Zohar Shavit, an Israeli historian, shocked her German colleagues with a scathing account of how German youth literature portrayed the Holocaust. In these books she said, Germans were often depicted as victims of the alien Nazis, Jews were romanticised or depersonalised and the Nazis often drawn in the manner of old anti-Semitic cartoons as small, dark and with hooked noses.

German historians at the seminar said that the analysis was biased and that most young Germans' views of the Holocaust were

shaped by television and the cinema. The friction is evident at almost all levels. Israelis point to opinion polls indicating that 78 per cent of Germans have no interest in the Middle East. The Germans say that Israeli interest in their country is so limited that there is not even an Israeli state television correspondent in Germany.

The most enduring Israeli complaint is about far-right activity. Neo-Nazis have frequently desecrated Jewish cemeteries and have twice set fire to synagogues. Mr Weizman called on Germans yesterday to stamp out this kind of activity and said: "I urge you to recognise every stirring of racism and smash every stirring of neo-Nazism."

German officials said yesterday that the openness of the President's remarks was an indication of how normal relations had become between Germany and Israel.



President Weizman of Israel applauds his audience in the German parliament after his speech in Hebrew yesterday

Coalition woes grow

Deepening crises put Kohl future in question

BY ROGER BOYES

ONE of Helmut Kohl's vanities is his ambition to outstrip the 14 years in power of Konrad Adenauer, Germany's first postwar Chancellor. The record should tumble in the autumn, but pundits are wondering whether Herr Kohl will make it.

When he was re-elected in 1994 it seemed certain he would go on and on, the marathon man of European politics. During the election campaign he had promised to retire before the 1998 elections, but the promise has not been repeated. Now it seems the pertinent question is not when Herr Kohl will decide to retire, but rather when he will be manoeuvred out of power.

More and more he is giving the impression of a man on the defensive: he has become a reactive politician rather than the great European visionary. That was the true significance of the tears he shed at the Requiem Mass for François Mitterrand. "The vision thing" had been supplied by the French leader.

Without his old friend, Herr Kohl emerges as just another pragmatist clinging on to an out-of-date programme and timetable until something better turns up. Significantly, that is a reading not from the opposition Social Democrats — who are still in awe of the Chancellor — but from the fringes of his Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union, and his other coalition partner, the shrinking Free Democrats' Party.

There are two salient aspects of the German scene. The first is that governments are not changed at general elections, but rather in mid-term. There is always a so-called coalition crisis which, in effect, is a crisis of confidence. It comes swiftly and invariably leads to accusations of betrayal: governments in Germany are not changed in carnival spirit but rather with bitterness, gloom and anxiety. The signs are that the Kohl era is reaching just such a critical phase.

The second key element is Herr Kohl's growing political fatigue. His preferred strategy is known as *aussitzen* — a patient sitting-out of crises — and he broke with that pattern only in 1989-90 when, in a burst of diplomacy, he engineered the unification of Germany.

It was assumed, wrongly it seems, that the Chancellor would be able to exploit the same personal reserves in his campaign for a united, federal Europe. But the German leader is running out of steam. Opinion polls indicate a narrowing of his lead. Barely 5 per cent separates his Christian Democrats (with 41 per cent) from the Social Democrats (36 per cent). The Greens (13 per cent) could be a strong governing partner for the Social Democrats.

The Chancellor's allies, the Free Democrats, have barely 3 per cent, not enough to gain entry to parliament. But polls fluctuate and the Chancellor has fought his way back from worse: he is, above all, a brilliant winner of elections. The dilemma rather is the accumulation of crises that is sapping confidence in Herr Kohl and which may well torpedo his coalition this year.

There are three problems: □ The Free Democrats have lost their sense of direction and are falling apart. At least three Free Democrats have been holding secret talks with the Social Democrats about possibly crossing the floor. The Chancellor has a majority of only ten. Two of his Christian Democrats are seriously ill. He cannot afford this kind of haemorrhaging.

□ The economy is slowing down. Unemployment will reach four million next month. That will play into the hands of the Social Democrats.

□ Early implementation of European economic and monetary union is rejected almost across the political board. The latest, and perhaps the most potent, opponent of a 1998 start is Edmund Stoiber, the Bavarian Prime Minister.



A reader studies photographs of former President Mitterrand's body, which were condemned as "immoral"

Mitterrand family unite to condemn doctor and deathbed photographs

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

THE family of François Mitterrand filed a lawsuit against *Paris-Match* magazine yesterday for publishing "immoral and disrespectful" photographs of the former President on his deathbed. A second suit has been filed against one of his doctors for violating medical secrecy.

In a special "commemorative" issue that appeared yesterday, the weekly magazine also printed extracts from a forthcoming book by Mitterrand's personal doctor claiming the Socialist leader lied about his health for more than a decade and became so ill from prostate cancer during the last year of his presidency that he was incapable of carrying out his official duties.

Paris-Match published two grainy photographs of Mitterrand's body, dressed in a dark suit and tie with his hands folded, lying on a bed in the Paris apartment where he died on January 8 at the age of 79.

Mitterrand's family immediately issued an angry statement alleging the photographs had been obtained improperly and threatening legal action against the magazine. The statement was signed by Mitterrand's mistress, Anne Pingeot, and his illegitimate daughter Mazarine, as well as his widow Danielle and their two sons.



Gubler: "In 1981, I told President cancer had spread to his bones"

Paris-Match said that the photographs, taken by "one of the many people admitted to the funeral chamber", had been published on account of "their beauty, their strength and their weight". By way of pre-emptive self-defence, the magazine reproduced deathbed pictures of Marcel Proust and Victor Hugo alongside those of Mitterrand.

In the same issue, *Paris-Match* published extracts from *The Big Secret*, a book by Claude Gubler, Mitterrand's doctor from 1981 to 1994, in which he revealed that the former President had

been diagnosed with prostate cancer six months after he was elected for his first seven-year term.

Dr Gubler also claimed that in the final months of his presidency, Mitterrand "did not work any more, since nothing interested him except his illness". The allegations were dismissed by the former President's colleagues, who insisted Mitterrand worked tirelessly until he left office last May.

Dr Gubler wrote: "In November 1981, I told the President that he had a cancer which had spread to his bones. I must impose state secrecy," he told me. He imposed this on me for 14 years."

During his 1981 election campaign, Mitterrand promised complete "transparency" on his state of health, in contrast to President Bourdieu, who concealed his illness until the day he died. For a decade Dr Gubler issued bulletins on the President's health twice a year, which he knew were dishonest.

Mitterrand's cancer was finally acknowledged in September 1992, but by November 1994 he was unfit to remain in office, according to Dr Gubler, who stopped treating him that year. Colleagues have condemned the doctor's assertions as a gross violation of medical ethics. "Medical secrecy is not lifted after a patient's death," said the National Order of Doctors, which may bring disciplinary proceedings.

Parisians discover it's chic to cycle

BY BEN MACINTYRE

LAST month's crippling transport strikes brought much of France to a stop and raised the blood pressure of commuters across the country, but they also introduced thousands of Parisians to a new form of transport: the bicycle.

With no Metro trains, no buses and some of the largest traffic jams in French history, Parisians found themselves cycling to work in record numbers. Some 380,000 people commuted by pedal-power, compared with the usual 140,000, according to a survey on this week. Sales of not only bicycles, but tandems, unicycles and tricycles soared.

The report finds that one in every three Parisians is now prepared, even eager, to cycle to work on a regular basis.

Municipal authorities are investigating ways to capitalise on the bicycle craze to reduce chronic pollution and relieve traffic congestion. Plans include laying out cycle routes through Paris and providing larger bicycle racks.

A lobby group has been set up, The Movement in Defence of the Bicycle, to bring pressure to bear on Mayor Jean Tiberi to make Paris an even more bicycle-friendly city.

Before the strikes, cycling was regarded as an occupation fit only for messengers, the very healthy, the very brave or the slightly mad. Now it has become chic, a way of simultaneously demonstrating one's concern for the environment and working off lunch.

For a time during the strikes, the Place de la Bastille looked like Peking at rush-hour. The cyclists also have made few sartorial concessions. One is still more likely to see a cyclist clad in furs and high heels, than wearing Spandex or a crash helmet.

Hitch-hiking has also outlasted the industrial unrest, and many motorists have become accustomed to sharing their daily commute with strangers.

But not all the habits ingrained by the strikes are quite so beneficial. Nearly half a million extra cars poured into the city every day there was a strike and to escape the traffic jams some cyclists took to riding, at breakneck speed, on pavements.

Many still do, which means those who developed a parallel taste for walking to work are doing so at their peril.

Russian minister resigns

Moscow: The new Communist-dominated Duma met for the first time in militant mood yesterday as Anatoli Chubais, the Russian government Minister responsible for privatisation, resigned (Thomas de Waal writes). He is the third pro-West member to have left President Yeltsin's Government in the past ten days.

His departure will please the Communist Party, the largest group in the Duma, with 157 of the 450 seats, which is opposed to privatisation. Mr Yeltsin and his Government were subjected to a barrage of criticism yesterday over the Pervomaiskoye hostage crisis. But the Communists suffered a setback when they failed at the first attempt to have their candidate voted in as Speaker.

UN to resettle Bosnia refugees

Geneva: Sadako Ogata, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, outlined plans for a phased and orderly repatriation of more than two million displaced Bosnians. The programme will start with the return or resettlement of about one million Bosnians displaced inside Bosnia-Herzegovina, then focus on an estimated 670,000 in neighbouring former Yugoslav republics. (Reuters)

Filipina maid row settled

Manila: The Philippines and Singapore restored full diplomatic ties to end a row over the hanging of a Filipina maid eight months ago (Abby Tan writes). President Ramos announced here the appointment of new ambassadors by each country, signalling the lifting of a Manila ban on sending domestics to work in Singapore.

Fini questions EMU criteria

Rome: Gianfranco Fini, the far-right leader whose National Alliance is the third biggest political party in Italy, has been quoted as saying that the tough criteria for joining the European Union's planned single currency must be renegotiated. (Reuters)

Banks' warning, page 23

Lobbyists face having to declare gifts to MEPs

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN STRASBOURG

MEMBERS of the European Parliament will find accepting consultants' fees and free trips a more delicate matter after a vote today that is expected to set new lobbying rules. But Euro-conservatives have balked at a move to make them declare their assets for public scrutiny.

Keen to dispel any suspicions of sleaze and burnish a dim public image, the Parli-

ament is set today to adopt a plan drafted by Glyn Ford, Labour MEP for Greater Manchester East, to register lobbyists and require them to declare payments — in cash or kind — to MEPs.

The need for a Nolan-style system of "transparency" has become urgent with the rapid growth in the army of lobbyists roaming the corridors of Strasbourg and Brussels seek-

ing to influence legislation on behalf of corporate and regional government interests. Many MEPs are assumed to supplement annual pay and expenses of more than £100,000 with directorships and consultancy fees. Accepting free foreign "fact-finding" trips is almost the norm.

Mr Ford said a new code of transparency was vital to avert "the danger of the Parliament becoming a kind of lobbyist's supermarket available to the highest bidder". However, many MEPs are unhappy about the suggested threshold of 1,000 euros (£840).

The idea of public access to a register of members' property has met opposition from the European People's Party — the bloc that includes British Conservatives. Wilfried Martens, group president, said it could encourage kidnapping for ransom. Brendan Donnelly, Conservative MEP for Sussex South, called it an unacceptable intrusion.

Greece to have new leader

FROM JOHN CARR
IN ATHENS

GREECE will have a new Prime Minister by the end of the week to replace the ailing Andreas Papandreu, who resigned late on Monday from his hospital bed.

The end of his 32-year political career was announced at the Athens headquarters of his Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok). Whoever is picked to serve the rest of the 76-year-old former Premier's term, after a two-round election by the socialist party's 170 deputies, will have a tough act to follow.

Nobody could be more different in style from Mr Papandreu than the two front-runners for the succession, Costas Simitis, 59, the former Industry Minister, and Gerassimos Arsenis, 64, the Defence Minister, are careful with their words and emotionless in public. Both appear committed to Mr Papandreu's austerity economics.

Rome millennium party at risk

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS
IN ROME

HUNDREDS of projects to restore the Colosseum and other Roman monuments in time for celebrations to mark the third millennium in 2000 are at risk because of Italy's political crisis, Francesco Rutelli, the Mayor of Rome, said yesterday.

Signor Rutelli and the Vatican have planned 61 improvements to the infrastructure, museums and churches of the Eternal City to prepare for the 30 million pilgrims expected to visit during the extraordinary Holy Year that has been declared by Pope John Paul II. These include building an underground line from the Colosseum to near St Peter's Square, constructing a motor underpass along the banks of the Tiber near the Castel Sant'Angelo next to the Vatican and moving thousands of inmates from the Regina Coeli prison, which is to become a huge cultural centre.

However, the Mayor, an ecologist who leads the left-wing city council, appealed to Lamberto Dini, the caretaker Prime Minister, to issue ur-



The Colosseum which is to be restored as part of Rome's millennium festivities

generally a decree that would enable the Treasury to allocate 3,000 billion lire (£1.2 billion) that was reserved for the infrastructure projects in the 1996 budget. Signor Rutelli was worried that since Signor Dini tendered his resignation for a second time last week, plunging the country into another political crisis, the funds may

be blocked until a new government is formed, which may not be before March.

Luigi Zanda, chairman of the agency co-ordinating the extravaganza, said that only 115 of the projects are on course to be completed by 2000 while 352 have a "medium chance" of being realised in time for the influx of

pilgrims and tourists. Some 109 are at risk of having to be shelved.

Nicola Scalzini, the under-secretary responsible for planning millennium celebrations, promised that a "decree law" would be passed to free the funds, but said that city authorities are dragging their feet on the detailed plans.

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'Charles's success at Gordonstoun came as a surprise to his parents'

Elizabeth's story



■ Today we continue our exclusive serialisation of *Elizabeth*, revealing how the Queen's devotion to duty left its mark on Charles... plus a look at the man whose job is tightening the royal purse-strings



TOMORROW

■ The Queen as a mother-in-law, and how she is attempting to deal with the many and complex marriage problems in her turbulent family

'You called me darling!' said Charles, amazed

It is terrible for any parent to be accused publicly of being a bad mother or father. Elizabeth had done her best in a difficult situation — to be a mother and a head of state, head of the Commonwealth and head of a household is a unique experience. She has had to put her job first, and the reason why she has been so successful at it is not only because she enjoys it, but also because she is a dedicated, self-contained personality.

Charles may have felt excluded from areas of his mother's life and subject to the rigorous standards expected of the heir to the Throne. But, except at boarding school, he had been surrounded by love from his mother and his grandmother, not to mention his mother's courtiers such as Lady Susan Hussey and Martin Charteris, who were extremely fond of him.

The fact that there was a certain amount of truth in Charles's self-pitying account of his childhood in the Jonathan Dimbleby television documentary, in 1994, did not excuse it. Elizabeth is good with small children but not with adults. She is not a hugger or a communicator on a personal level. Out of consideration for her adored husband in his difficult position as consort, she overcompensated by allowing him free rein in the upbringing of his son. But the fact that she is the Queen sets her apart from everyone, even her own children.

Charles was a victim of his royal birthright. He seems unwilling to accept, as his mother has, that there is a price to pay for privilege — and the greater the privilege, the higher the price.

Charles's siblings, Anne, Andrew and Edward, were outraged by the Dimbleby documentary and told him so. Outwardly, Elizabeth put a brave face upon it. No one seeing her on her first state

ELIZABETH AND CHARLES

visit to Moscow in October 1994 could have thought her less than delighted to be there. Only those who knew her well could diagnose how wounded she felt.

In the 1960s, when Anne and Charles were teenagers and Andrew and Edward were still young children, Elizabeth seemed to have found a satisfactory balance between the demands of her work and her children. Prince Charles went on record as saying that he thought of his family as "very special people."



Strained relations: Charles and the Queen at the Derby

"I've never wanted to get away from home," he said. "We happen to be a very close-knit family. I am happier at home with my family than anywhere else." Later, as his private life turned spectacularly and publicly sour, he blamed his mother's remoteness and his father's impatient strictness for the disaster.

The Prince protested too much, but it is a fair observation that, as one relation has said: "Elizabeth was noticeably more relaxed with her two young children, Andrew and Edward, than she was with him. This was especially true with Andrew, an uncomplicated, rumbustious child

Gordonstoun, this time driving there himself with his father sitting in the back, underlining his progress from boyhood to being an adult. He was made "guardian" of the school, a rather watered-down Gordonstoun version of head boy.

His success came as a surprise to his parents. Elizabeth had had doubts whether he would even make captain of his house, let alone head of the school.

Elizabeth's relationship with Anne was an exceptionally easy one, as her own relationship with her mother had been. Since she had been able to accommodate her husband's forceful personality, she had few problems with her daughter, who was in many ways almost his clone. There was none of the conflict that characterises many mother-daughter relationships. There was mutual admiration and respect for each other's abilities and shared interests.

Like her mother and, to a lesser extent, her father, Anne had a passion for horses. Charles later claimed that he often felt left out at home when his mother, father and sister discussed the finer points of equitation or breeding, and that they laughed at him when he made some elementary mistake in the subject. "Oh, Anne's so practical," Elizabeth would say delightedly when one of the dogs was hurt. "She always knows what to do."

They even owned the same dogs. Anne had a black Labrador and a corgi — a male refugee from the royal pack, which was exclusively female. The relationship with her father was equally easy — in many ways Anne fulfilled the son's role to him, but without the underlying element of male competitiveness.

Elizabeth, her days and often also her evenings occupied with unavoidable routine, never took the initiative in inviting her children's confidences. Although she was their mother, she was still the Queen and that invisible aura of distance surrounded her. She could laugh, joke, mimic when she felt relaxed. But she was still self-contained and reserved, finding it impossible to discuss emotional issues. In the stiff-upper-lip tradition of her family, she regarded displays of emotion or complaints as weakness.

When a dog belonging to one of her private secretaries died, she wrote a four-page letter of condolence. But when

ling" Charles stopped in his tracks and turned round, saying in a surprised voice: "You called me darling!"

Philip, although perversely capable of great kindness, was by nature a bully and he bullied Charles, sometimes bringing tears to his eyes. Elizabeth never moved to protect her son, principally because she believed her husband to be right, and secondly because she believed that his masculinity gave him the right to have the principal say in his eldest son's upbringing.

In 1965, when he was 17, Charles was given a respite from Gordonstoun by being sent to school in Australia. In keeping with the ideas behind his education, he was not going there for his own pleasure but because Elizabeth felt that the heir to the Throne should begin to have some first-hand experience of the Commonwealth.

Charles was apprehensive about Australia and a new school environment, as from past experience he had every right to be. But he genuinely enjoyed his time there. He met friendliness and none of the hostility which he had encountered in his British public schools. He returned more confident to the dreaded



The camera never lies: in this family portrait, Charles's troubled expression is in marked contrast to Anne's relaxed smile

one of her former private secretaries died, she could not bring herself to write to his widow, although the man had served her loyally for many years. It was not callousness but an inability to express, and an unwillingness to face up to, deep emotion.

Elizabeth's children (and other people) did not confide in her, partly because she was the Queen and partly because of a reluctance to break through her reserve. She herself would sometimes complain that her children "never talked to" her, seemingly not realising that perhaps the initiative could lie with her.

● Edited extracts from *Elizabeth, A Biography of Her Majesty the Queen*, to be published by William Heinemann on February 5, £20.
© Sarah Bradford 1996

Book offer

Copies of *Elizabeth* can be bought by readers of *The Times* at a special price of £15 each (post and package free) from Reed Book Services, PO Box 5, Rushden, Northants NN10 6XJ (01933 414000). Cross cheques and make payable to Reed Book Services Ltd, with name and full address on the back, quoting reference K122. Allow up to 28 days for delivery from February 5.



Trouble upstairs, downstairs

Michael Charles Gerrard Peat, aged 46, educated at Eton and Trinity College, Oxford, with an MBA from the top European business school INSEAD, and a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, has a background in accountancy as a partner from 1972 to 1993 in KPMG Peat Marwick, the firm founded by his father.

He has been Director of Finance and Property Services (an entirely new Household title created specifically for him) since 1990, but began his scrutiny of the Royal Household in 1986, when he was called in by the new Lord Chamberlain, the 13th Earl of Airliie. Airliie was appointed to the top Palace job in 1984 after a City career principally in merchant banking.

Airliie, tall, slim and immaculate, is the grandson of the famous Mabel, Countess of Airliie, Queen Mary's lady-in-waiting and friend who acted

RUNNING THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD

as Cupid to King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, and whose memoirs, *Thatched with Gold*, pre-dated Crawfie and were not entirely approved of in court circles. His wife, Virginia, is lady-in-waiting to the Queen.

Airliie, through his "hands-on" approach to his job and his patronage of Peat, is far and away the most influential member of the Household. "Lord Maclean [the previous Lord Chamberlain], one member of the staff said plaintively, "used to leave us alone."

Peat lives in Kensington Palace, in one half of an apartment formerly occupied

total for the redecoration of this apartment and one for Peat's deputy next door was reputed to be £1 million. Michael Peat, it was announced in May 1995, had been paid a £13,000 bonus on top of his £116,000 salary (already high by Household standards). Royal officials have stated that his economies will make savings of more than £50 million by the end of the century in the running of the Household and in maintaining the palaces.

Peat's earnings did not go down well with chambermaids in the Royal Household, whose wages had actually been reduced in his

reforms. The domestic staff have resented the clerical employees getting higher wages than they do, and feel that performance-related pay is unfair and impossible in the circumstances of their own employment.

The official response is that change was long overdue and in any case is always unpopular. That is true, but one could question the wisdom of damaging an ethos built up over the years: the sense of being a community and of belonging to a family which royal service had engendered.

Elizabeth is a traditionalist; although she has agreed to the reforms, people question how much she is now aware of what is going on. Memorandums are not a substitute for personal contact and there is little consultation between the personnel services and senior staff when it comes to recruitment.

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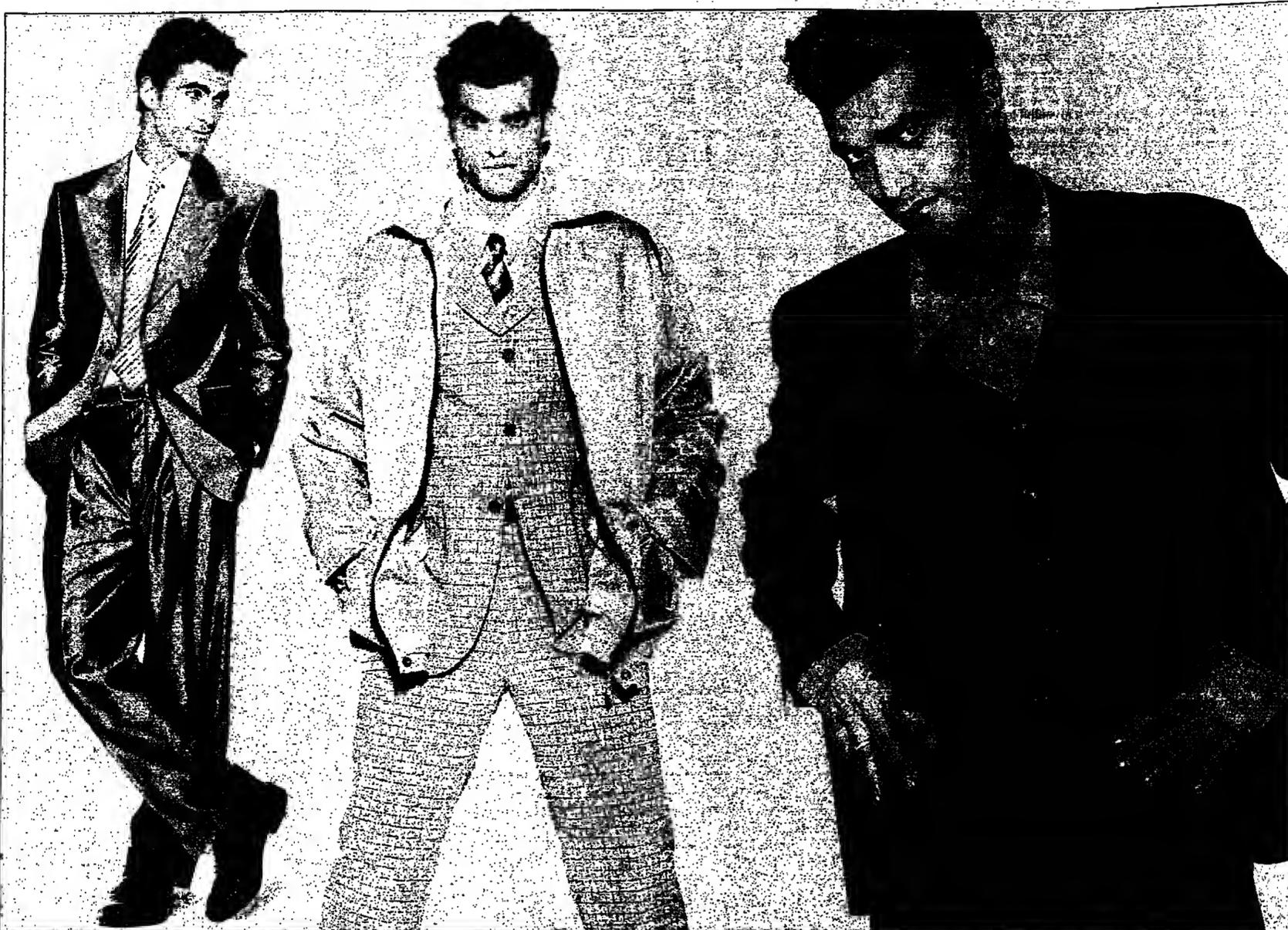
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Menswear that means business



LEFT: Silver suit, £520; white shirt, £69; gray/cream stripe tie, £45, Boss; black leather lace-up shoes, £155, Russell & Bromley, 24-26 New Bond Street, W1; selected branches nationwide.

CENTRE: Beige check suit, £501; beige shirt, £69; beige/red/blue tie, £40, Hugo; black nylon jacket, £250, Boss.

RIGHT: Black single-breasted jacket, high-buttoned waistcoat and trousers sold as suit, £651; black knitted polo shirt, £97; Boss.

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Hugo Boss has moved away from its Wall Street image to suit the independent man of the 1990s

When a designer or a label so succinctly sums up a moment, what happens when the rest of the world eventually moves on? This was the problem facing Hugo Boss, the German menswear company whose slick tailoring was the business for a zillion would-be Gordon Gekkos in the 1980s. Together with Armani, Hugo Boss virtually cut the pattern of the late 1980s power suit. David Bradshaw, fashion director at *Arena* magazine, says, "At a time when wearing Hugo Boss was like driving a BMW and Wall Street was hip, its advertising campaign predicted that 'style would never go out of fashion'. This may be so but, after the Big Bang, Hugo Boss definitely did."

The company's image was stuck in a groove and had become seriously ungroovy. In 1993 Dr Peter Littmann, the new president of the company, proudly unveiled the new masterplan, a relaunch which split the original label into three individual brands: Hugo, a younger fashion-conscious line; Baldessarini, featuring exclusive designs; and Boss, concentrating on more traditional business styles.

By expanding the range and repackaging the product into specific target groups the company could reach a wider clientele, while maintaining its prized original customer.

Identifying the need for a new look, the men in suits at Hugo Boss enlisted the help of big-name photographers Richard Avedon and Jurgen Teller, along with Fabrice Baron, creative director of *Harper's Bazaar*. The resulting edgy advertising pictures, which were more concerned with creating the right mood than with showing much of the merchandise, struck the right note.

"The launch of the Hugo line and the excellent advertising campaign has given the company a new, younger face," Bradshaw says. This weekend Hugo Boss

Fashion
journalist of
the year



IAIN R. WEBB

marks its successful comeback by opening its first store in Britain in Regent Street, London, exclusively stocking the Boss line. The UK is the largest international market for Hugo Boss. In 1994 retail turnover in Britain was £15.5 million. In the first half of 1995 the UK sales rose by 21.6 per cent.

"At the moment Hugo and Boss are the most powerful brands of menswear clothing in the world," says Werner Baldessarini, design director at Hugo Boss and the namesake of one of the lines. "With our three brands we cover the spectrum of men's tastes and requirements."

Certainly the sheer diversity of merchandise ensures that a man can tailor the collections to his own needs. "The values of the 1980s have changed in the 1990s. Today's lifestyle is characterised by more restraint, greater emphasis on private lives and more individual independence," says Baldessarini. "All this is reflected in style and fashion." And, of course, in the wardrobe of the Hugo Boss man.



Chocolate-brown three-piece suit, £569, Hugo; black/cream pin-stripe shirt, £103, Boss; brown nylon parka, £229, Hugo. All clothes by Hugo Boss. Boss, 184 Regent Street, W1 (0171-734 7919; stockist inquiries 0171-408 0223).

Photographs by ROD NISSEN-PETZER. Grooming by James Dodds

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HAPPY HABITAT

SIR Terence Conran, that giant of international design, is compared to those English amateurs of the 18th century who took a Grand Tour under the pretext of culture, when they yearned only to flee the foggy shores of Albion for the warmth of the southern sun. Habitat types are distinguished "explorers" who use Peter Mayle's *Toujours Provence* as their guidebook to the art of living. These English Europhiles find harmony in the simple objects of ordinary life: old pastis pitchers, glazed earthenware crockery, tin coffee pots, rustic dressers and slip-covered armchairs. Functional simplicity, but nothing too ascetic, is the motto. They often flatter themselves about their little wine cellar, and gaily practise the art of oenology between Saint-Remy-de-Provence and Butler's Wharf. The kitchen is their true living room; cooking lovingly is their hobby. Quite at ease in their era, the Happy Habitats hate extremes like total modernism or stale traditionalism.

Our little houses of horrors

Christian Lacroix has published a guide which reveals much of modern interior design in all its true ghastliness, reports Kate Muir

The rich, famous and fashionable are curling with embarrassment over a wickily acid guide to the excesses of modern design compiled by the couturier Christian Lacroix. *Styles d'aujourd'hui* lampoons the past 30 years of "interior magazines and their culture of narcissism".

It has been published in Paris, where it is virtually unavailable since dinner parties throughout the city are dedicated to spotting Lacroix's victims, but most of its caricatures could equally be found in London.

Many of them are horribly close to home — every home — like over-rosed "Colefax and Fowler" and "Happy Habitat" as well as the "Zen Minimalism".

In the "Happy Habitat" analysis, Sir Terence Conran is compared to an English aristocrat on the Grand Tour who pretends to a serious cultural interest while really being interested only in lounging in the sun.

And the "King of Couture" section (aimed at Karl Lagerfeld, of Chanel, perhaps?) shows a room draped, chandeliered and gilded. The authors note that "a sort of aristocracy of the rag trade" has developed, with fabulous elegance, trailing behind it top models and beautiful people, a society dedicated to the superfluous. "It is the world as a temporary showroom."

The British designers Colefax and Fowler are taken to task for their "irrational passion for Marie Antoinette" and the eventual, horrible abuses of the Colefax and Fowler look. "The result is chintz with a huge motif of roses for vicarages in Kent ... nothing is more fragile than this mix of English country

house and French good taste, tempered by Italian tones." But eventually, the over-use of the patterns has resulted instead in "Germanic rigour".

Even the plain loft does not escape ridicule. Natural brick, industrial features and modern paintings have all become terribly middle-class.

Cruel dissection of other people's taste is a national pastime, particularly in Britain. In the 1950s and 1960s Osbert Lancaster, of the *Daily Express*, invented descriptions of houses such as "Stockbrokers Tudor", "Bypass Variegated" and "Wimbledon Transitional". Lacroix and his collaborator, Patrick Mauries, say their book is in part a homage to Lancaster, and an updating of his work: "Certain old-style English people cherish his memory, but they will always be too few."

Now the British interior guru Stephen Bayley, who founded the Design Museum, is planning to write a similarly wicked British encyclopaedia, with provisional labels such as "Jewish Renaissance", "Early Horrible", "Neo Provence" and "Women's Guardian".

Bayley believes the subject to be of great cultural significance: "Ever since Prince Albert installed taran linoleum in Balmoral, interior design has been a poorly revealing gauge of taste."

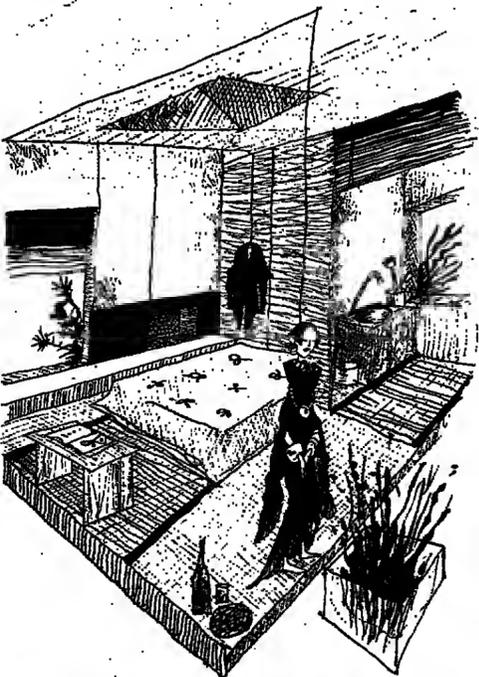
But he disagrees with the Lacroix-Mauries theory that decorating is a French subject. He claims interior design was invented at the turn of the century by an American named Elsie de Wolfe. "She was the person who introduced new American money to old French furniture. When she saw the Parthenon she said: 'It's beige! My colour!'"



NEO-BAROQUE

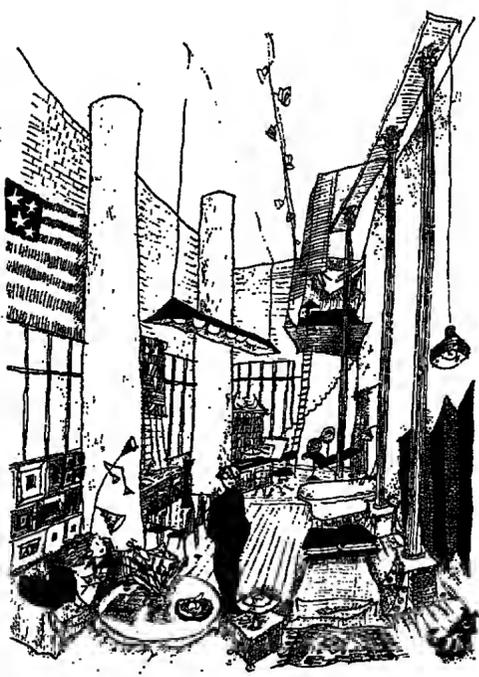
THE Neo-Baroque style dates back to the mid-1930s, when the French millionaire Charles de Beistegui commissioned an octagonal apartment from the minimalist architect Corbusier, and then proceeded to fill it with pompous candelabras, fancy crystal, Baroque Venetian furniture and Napoleon III pouffes all intended to infuriate Corbusier. The resulting bizarre contradiction in terms became famous since it expressed the first wave of rejection of Modernism. This anti-Modernism had a resurgence everywhere 50 years later, pioneered by ordinary people who remained against its ascetic style. Neo-Baroque signals the triumphal return of ornament: grainy metals and black-painted wood are replaced by painted plaster and gilded bronzes. Louis XV/II furniture has made a comeback, and magical or elemental symbols like moons are included. The only danger is that it can veer towards the vulgar Rococo Rock style.

n pledge reader after Leone con



ZEN MINIMALISM

MINIMALISM is to decoration what Zen is to philosophy. Searing and definitive, ethical beneath the aesthetic, it is the last word for those with consciences saturated by consumerism. Squares are used religiously for windows, doors and cupboards. There are moveable partitions, a light, a tank of stone serving as a bath — but no ornaments. Minimalists believe they will be redeemed by the futon, that they can meditate in the kitchen and create the metaphysical from the hygienic. This trend to bloodless Japanese style, trendy in the early 1980s, has all the allure of a terminal illness.



EIGHTIES LOFT

THE loft-dweller is torn in two — concerned with modernity, light, space and purity, and at the same time part of the past. Loft-dwellers value supporting columns, industrial architecture, plain or white walls, wooden floorboards, natural brick walls and huge windows. They have a horror of screens and partitions. In Soho, Wapping and Montparnasse, loft-dwellers cook in the living room and have bathrooms in their bedrooms. The loft is a perfect expression of the 1980s — an obvious demonstration of wealth by sheer size. But it is dangerously close to becoming the traditional apartment.



DECO DISCO

THIS was the start of decorating fashion paralleling clothes fashion. Deco Disco followers rediscovered Thirties style, encompassing everything from Dietrich to theatrical make-up with red lips and dark eyes. Deco Disco means ebony and white satin. Its proponents know the nuances of eggshell and off-white and are fond of tubular chrome. Geometric and vertical. Deco is not famed for its comfort. It does not tolerate mixing or eclecticism. You end up being bored by the endless bars finished in Deco style, right down to the mirrors and potted palms. True Art Deco has been gobbled up by Disco.

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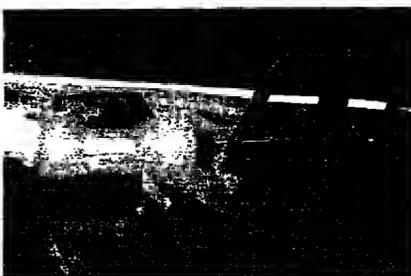
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Alan Coren



Where's your common sense? These are the building blocks of the imagination

Like, I hope, most of you, I have a soft spot for folk whose heart is in the right place but whose brain is in a box under the stairs. In consequence, I always think twice before attacking those who attempt to do the decent thing before thinking even once, since, God knows, few enough decent things are attempted these days, unthinkingly or not. More yet, when there is a risk of appearing to take a sledgehammer to a nut, I think three times. So I have done all that thinking, but I still find I have no other course, this morning, than to spit on my hands and start swinging.

For the nut in question has the responsibility of working for Gloucestershire County Council as a social services inspector, in which capacity she recently found herself peering into a toy-chest in Holy Jesus Church in the village of Lydbrook, and not liking what she saw. Or, rather, not liking what she didn't see. For the chest was the home of the Lego bricks played with by the toddlers who attend the Rev Michael Foster's infants' club, but while it thus contained lots of bits of little Lego men, it did not contain any bits at all of little black Lego men.

This shook the inspector to her core, for it is a decent core, pleased, as Gloucestershire County Council subsequently declared, to "an equal opportunities policy designed to reflect a multi-cultural society". In the light of which, it has now insisted that Mr Foster go out and buy little black Lego men, "so that the children will have an appreciation of other cultures, races and religions".

He will have his work cut out. For had the GCC inspector taken her brain out of its box for long enough to make the simple phone call to Lego which mine has just done, she would have discovered that Lego do not manufacture little black men. Nor do they manufacture little Bengali men, or little Moroccan men, or little Filipino men, or little Jewish men, or little Seventh Day Adventist men, which multi-culturalism would surely require them to do, once they had made little black men, indeed, as the Lego spokesman observed, with a grasp of racial complexity that the GCC would do well to ponder, how could they make a little black man at all, when there were so many different types of little black men? What, in short, was a black man? Just how stereotypical did Gloucester want them to risk appearing?

So that was the one thing. But the other thing would be no less of a headache for the vicar, were he to seek to mollify the GCC by, say, painting some of his little white men black. The other thing — known to all parents, if not to social services inspectors — is that Lego is surreal: Despite a corporate policy committed to launching new kits on the toddler market every few minutes, there is a Legionary Law which states that whatever a parent thinks he has bought — a crane, a plane, a bungalow, a horse — that is the last thing his child is going to build with what he finds in the box. He is going to stick the bricks together to make something else, and the something else, cobbled as it is from the surreal imagination of a child, will be incomprehensible to the parent, until the child tells him. The child — usually after mixing the new kit in with all his other bits — will produce a multi-coloured thing two feet high, with assorted wheels on the bottom, sporadic windows all over it, and three heads on the top; whereupon the parent will say "What is that?" and the child will proudly reply "A space-ship" or "A dinosaur". The parent will then go off to answer the doorbell, so that the child next door can come in with a similar Lego thing, and both Lego things will thereafter engage in noisy combat, until each is reduced once more to its component bricks. Adding a few tokens bits of little black men to this process would make no difference whatever, never mind nurturing, what was it, an appreciation of other cultures, races and religions.

For Lego is not about the real world, nor about encouraging a toddler's understanding of it. It is about encouraging his imagination, when that sublime property is at its most potent. It quickly fades, indeed, I have heard that in Gloucester there are people with their hearts in the right place, their brains in a box under the stairs, but no imagination at all.



Making a song and dance

Covent Garden's astonishing art may be inseparable from the prima donna managers and the ramshackle premises

Opera bores used to tell anecdotes of torn gowns, missed cues and garlic breath. Now any more. They can now gorge themselves on the Night of the Sobbing Soprano, the Dance of the Sugar Plum Ballet Board and the Great Box-Office Sacking. They can delight in the *Karya Kabanova* overspend, the hair-spraying of Trevor Nunn's horse or the colour of Jeremy Isaacs's underpants. The BBC's investigation of its sister castle of culture, Covent Garden, began last night and continues for five more 50-minute programmes. I have watched them all. They are the best documentaries I have seen.

Files are not just on every wall but in every dressing-room, workshop, clinic and loo. The series is constructed like a Saki anthology, mini-dramas in which bizarre decisions lead to even more bizarre outcomes. The designer of *Sleeping Beauty* runs £130,000 over budget and has every seamstress in London working up 400 new dresses on overtime. Nowhere else in Britain could anything like this happen. Will anyone tell the designer to stop? Never. This is Covent Garden and "if you push her, she'll burst into tears". Artists are at work, from the lowliest backdrop painter to the director of finance himself.

What drove Covent Garden to this act of self-exposure is a mystery. From his public comments it even mystifies the general director, Jeremy Isaacs, the star of the show. Never can an organisation and its boss have laid themselves so bare. Perhaps Covent Garden felt it owed the taxpayer a debt of openness. If so, the debt is honoured and with credit. We can see the warts — and the glories — of a public institution vividly displayed. No turn is left unexamined. This is a management video with class.

The warts have been much publicised, and Covent Garden's £19 million subsidy has been questioned accordingly. The comment by the personnel director, Mike Morris, that his industrial relations are "as if Thatcher had never happened" cannot help the opera's plea of poverty. Nor can the three-day-week scene-shifter who dismisses £27,000 as a "slave labour" salary. Backstage at Covent Garden is like Fleet Street in the bad old days, a morass of special payments, irrelevant agreements and rampant moonlighting (some now being curtailed).

The Royal Opera House constitution emerges from all this as a form of exquisite torture. At the top is a non-executive board of great and good in promiscuous liaison with the Arts Council. As losses pile up they are filmed, tossing phrases such as "outrageous", "appalling" and "I am furious" across the table at Isaacs and his team. The latter look like shamed-faced footmen summoned upstairs for purloining the port.

The next tier down is the management, all dreadfully overworked. They use words like "sod" and "shit" and struggle each night to keep the show on the road. Over the year of filming, Isaacs gets ever wilder. He frequently strips to the waist and seems about to imitate Violet Elizabeth Bott, threatening to "thcream and thcream until I'm thick" unless given more cash.

Beneath this tier ranges a vast and colourful cast. There are the Indulged Ones, the superstars of grand opera, the directors, designers, conductors, prima donnas, demanding ever more extravagant sets and costumes, imposing crippling costs on the organisation. Because they see above them a hierarchy of rich board and even richer taxpayers, they show no sense of financial discipline. They just want "the best". The same spirit infuses the technical staff, their antics familiar to all who knew industrial relations in an age which, the bemused board wails, "we thought we'd let behind".

Less attention is given to the heroes of the piece, the artists, singers, dancers and musicians. We glimpse them almost as shadows, in the background or from the flies, as they descend into the maelstrom to practise their art and receive their disembodied applause. They seem in perpetual agony. We watch Denyce Graves break down in tears as her throat gives out. Dancing on points looks as painful as Chinese

foot-binding. Darcy Russell turns her ankle and a male principal has his foot cut open. A camera is everywhere, yet its gaze cannot quite capture the sense of spectacle, the object of the struggle. We are left admiring it through a keyhole, watching the commitment and insecurity of young people working at the limits of their skill. For all her overspend, Maria Bjornson's *Mausolat* set for *Sleeping Beauty* is sensational.

Which raises the old conundrum: an opera house may generate executive pain, but it also generates great art. Covent Garden is poor yet extravagant, anguished yet brilliant, chaotic yet a survivor. Over the years it has exhilarated me more than any other building in London. It is not just a place of talent but a talented place. The genius is indeed local. Can it really be that this quality has nothing to do with its scruffy context? The cheapest art says Isaacs, is no art at all. He does not examine the converse, whether the best art need be the most expensive.

Genius requires a dose of arrogance in its custodians. Covent Garden has this arrogance — Isaacs is shown baring an uppity taxi driver who queries his subsidy — but it is crucially tempered by pain. As the anecdotes unfold, I sensed a silken thread running from the royal box out across the gilded auditorium to the grim backstage, down through the wares of corridors and cubbyholes, past the effing and blinding managers to encircle even the cussed unions. The House is of a piece, united in sustaining the two most sublime arts in the world, song and dance. Covent Garden does both better than anywhere remotely comparable.

Why spoil it? Surely the shouting, the long faces, the hate mail, the pleading with the Arts Council, the cringing to sponsors are echoes of what we see on stage, of the tenor's fear of laryngitis or the ballerina's sprained foot. This is

not a simple, let alone a commercial, operation. Its product is born not just of talent but of temperament. The board may mutter and throw down its pencils, the managers may smash phones, the workers may "refer back to the branch committee". As one knife plunges into the career of the box-office manager, so another plunges into Carmen on stage, to the same music. As the stage crew "go into dispute", the *Aida* chorus sings of wars past and to come. The web is seamless.

Covent Garden is to be rebuilt. Anyone can see that the conditions in which opera and ballet are produced in London are primitive. The place is not so much a Dickensian factory as a satanic mill. The response is to sweep it all away, including the absurdities and indiscretions, the overstaffing, indulgences and featherbedding. With a slate wiped clean by two years of closure, it is hoped that a fresh start can be made. The new Covent Garden is to be a wonderland of technology. There can be multiple electronic access and better value for the taxpayer's money. Reason cannot quarrel with that, nor can I.

But opera, thank God, is not a hall of reason. I sense that Covent Garden has bared its soul as a gesture of enraged and frustrated exhibitionism. It has hurled its reputation on the pyre. It is about to leave Floral Street as a blackened ruin and go for two years into the wilderness, touring and scavenging. The institution will probably be strengthened by the experience. The public will back it grudgingly, by the public backs all high art grudgingly. By making itself so vulnerable and endearingly human, I think Covent Garden has helped itself in this respect.

What shall we see when it returns? Terrible things happen to art in comfortable surroundings. Smart buildings cast a jinx on performing art — ask New York's Lincoln Center or the Barbican or Paris's benighted Bastille Opera. Nor are novels any better for being written in gleaming palaces or films for having \$50 million budgets. The real challenge to Covent Garden is not to survive the next two years, to become more efficient or budget-conscious. The challenge is to its art. The message of this series is that art and context are intermingled. The best opera venue in the world will survive closure. Tougher by far will be to survive reopening.

Simon Jenkins

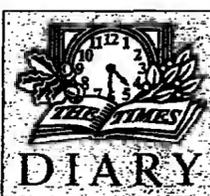
gives too much money to elitist arts". Raymond Gubby, the musical impresario who is putting on *La Bohème* for the masses at the Albert Hall, is proposing, "I'm not going to knock the Opera House, because they are doing a good job of that themselves," he says.

Write on

YESTERDAY'S *Daily Telegraph* contained a pompous article by Sir Robert Rhodes James, who took exception to Sarah Bradford's new biography of the Queen, which is being serialised in *The Times*. He said that the book impelled Sarah Bradford's reputation — a remark that reminded me of a pithy exchange between Lord Dacre of Glanton (then Professor Hugh Trevor-Roper) and A.J.P. Taylor in the pages of a historical magazine in the 1960s.

First off, Trevor-Roper reviewed Taylor's provocative and controversial *Origins of the Second World War*. He closed his caustic remarks saying the book would do great damage to AJP's reputation. Taylor then reviewed Trevor-Roper's comments. His philippic was just as dismissive. The review, he said, would do great harm to Professor Trevor-Roper's reputation as a scholar — if he had one.

Sir Robert, too, has received pastings. "This book will be a dis-



appointment," wrote Ian McIntyre of his recent biography of Henry Wellecome. "The writing is undistinguished and occasionally slipshod."

Still rocking

HI-DI-HI and knobby-knee competitions will shortly come to the West End stage. *The Bullfinch Story*, a musical about Redcoats featuring Alvin Stardust, hits the London Palladium at the end of the month, before a nationwide tour (including a possible royal command performance in Skegness) as part of the diamond jubilee of the holiday camps.

Stardust, the leather-clad 1970s rock-star with a skyscraper of a quiff, will draw on personal experience for his starring role as Sir Billy Butlin. For like Michael Barrymore, Des O'Connor and Ken

Dodd, he once worked in the camps. "As a boy I won a week at Butlin's in a talent contest and won another week in a contest there, singing Elvis Presley's *Teddy Bear*," he recalls. "That gave my career a push."

Suzie, be my Valentine

THE Foreign Secretary clearly has a passion for international affairs. Malcolm Rifkind yesterday declared himself to be in love with Susanna Anelli, the elderly Italian Foreign Minister who once revealed her passion for Douglas Hurd, Mr Rifkind's predecessor. The Foreign Office, meanwhile, has announced a Valentine's Day party in London.

Free or not?

MICHAEL FORSYTH, Secretary of State for Scotland, has an uncomfortable dilemma, given the climate created by the Nolan committee. As is the custom with new Cabinet ministers, he has been invited to contribute a book to the library in 10 Downing Street. He chose *The Road to Serfdom*, by Friedrich Hayek, the free-market economic guru. The book must be hardback.



"There must be an error: they've put us in maternity"

and Forsyth, who owns a dog-eared version in paperback, asked the Scottish Office to find him one. It is out of print, so at a lunch at the Institute of Economic Affairs — the sort of place one might fall over copies of Hayek — he ventured a plea.

A number of fine old copies were offered by assorted members free of charge but had to be turned down. All were first editions, worth up to £300, and the terms of the Nolan committee do not allow him to accept. Forsyth is still looking.

The TUC's stake in Mr Blair

Employees need new rights, says

John Monks

For once the Conservatives felt they were on the front foot last week. When the Prime Minister and his deputy condemned Tony Blair's vision of a "stakeholder economy", they hoped to reach familiar ground. Stakeholding is about unions, they said. It will help them to rebuild their position.

But a stakeholder economy is not about a return to the 1970s. Nor does it give Tory strategists an excuse to rerun their anti-union arguments of the 1980s.

First, opinions on how to restore Britain's competitiveness are changing decisively, as are trade unions.

Secondly, and more significantly, Tony Blair's idea has the radical potential to change the way we construct relations in the modern company and to change the role of unions.

We in the unions regard ourselves as stakeholders in the common enterprise of making this country more competitive, community-minded and caring. This country needs more influential unions to work with employers in a new national drive for competitiveness; to be partners in innovation and training, and in providing opportunities to work for all. We can be partners in stamping out short-term selfishness and incompetence among the worst employers, who are letting the country down.

Britain has been bedevilled by class distinctions at work, expressed in "them and us" terms and in industrial conflict. It is not only workers who think like this. The recent excesses in many boardrooms have shown vividly that some directors still act in their own personal interests. One result is social inequality and division. Another is a financial system that rewards short-term dividend growth and deters long-term investment in capital, training and innovation.

The dismantling of protection for people at work over the past decade and a half has encouraged many employers to treat their workers as factors of production, rather than as their most important resource. Job insecurity, diminishing rewards and increasing pressure are now felt keenly by employees, irrespective of their occupation or grade.

The consequences are stark. In the past year, Britain has slipped from fourteenth to eighteenth in the world competitiveness league. But a rising tide of opinion now recognises that the future lies in a high-skill, high-investment economy, with employers and employees working together to deal with change and improve competitiveness. Indeed, 44 of the 50 largest companies in Britain recognise trade unions.

Public opinion is now consistently behind the involvement of unions in the workplace: one of our regular surveys now shows that nine out of ten people believe that unions are essential to protect people's interests at work, and a large majority think the balance of power at work has tipped too far in favour of employers. They are saying the problem is no longer the over-mighty union, but the over-mighty boss.

A strong sense of insecurity at work has contributed to this new support, but improved services to members and skilled changes in the way unions campaign to win wider support have also played their part.

Nevertheless, although unions have a major interest in economic success, Tony Blair's stakeholder philosophy reminds us that the basic stakeholder is the individual. Every individual employee has a stake in the success of his or her company, and in the prosperity and opportunities this should bring.

Independent unions are the means for individuals to exercise their voices or to realise their stakes collectively, and thus more effectively. That is good for both employers and employees. Employers need the collective commitment of their staff. And employees need to join together, as the relationship between employer and the individual employee is inevitably unequal.

In the past, some have praised the collective and forgotten that its original purpose was to advance the interests of individuals. Now the stakeholder concept corrects this mistake. It reminds us of the proper role for unions and reinforces the legitimacy of representing union members.

The TUC established a task group on stakeholding immediately after its Congress last year. This approach is a natural extension of the social partnership that we have advocated for both the country and individual firms.

Our proposals for new rights to representation at work also rest on the stakeholder idea, as they start with the basic right of all employees to be consulted and represented in dealings with their employer if they wish. If a majority of the employees want it, then unions would have a legal right to be recognised to negotiate for them.

But the TUC is clear that stakeholding is not a euphemism for more employee rights, although they are an integral part of this approach. The local community, suppliers, the local environment and the wider economy all have a stake in the success of companies, just as individual companies have a stake in the general prosperity and performance of the country.

Stakeholding is an exciting idea which has emerged as the unregulated, free-market excesses of the 1980s are in their death throes. The TUC looks forward to playing its part in this national debate.

The author is General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress.

Grot indeed

MALCOLM RIFKIND is beginning to exhibit the kind of diplomacy as Foreign Secretary that saw Douglas Hurd through many a tight spot on his sojourns. The chance for some eminent words came the other day when he popped into Azerbaijan to see the President, on his way to China.

President Aliyev, once Deputy Prime Minister of the Soviet Union, welcomed him with the hug of a bear and gave him a good lunch. Then he suggested that Rifkind might like to repair for coffee to his presidential grotto. "Your grotto?" asked Rifkind. "Yes, my grotto. I am rather proud of it," he replied.

The President led the minister away to an extraordinary cave for his coffee. A cave with hand-crafted stalactites and stalagmites; with garish shells, fairy-like charms and coloured lights that would put a 1970s disco in the shade. It was carpeted with the skins of wild animals. Heidar Aliyev explained that the grotto was his own creation — he had studied for a year at architecture school and he had built it for Brezhnev when he visited.

The experience mightily impressed beetle-browed Brezhnev,

but the cave was not quite to Rifkind's taste. "Well, what do you think?" asked the eager President — and Rifkind was diplomacy itself. "It's... well... it's unforgettable."

After last night's documentary on Covent Garden, Jeremy Isaacs will tonight oppose an Oxford Union motion that "This house believes that the National Lottery



President Aliyev

50 من الأمل

P.H.S



BATTLE SITES

Who will win the Millennium Exhibition race?

In early modern Europe, the pursuit of the millennium was the obsession of revolutionary and anarchistic sects, few of them more assiduous than the Diggers and Ranters of Cromwellian England. In 1996 we take a mostly calmer view of what will happen in just four years' time. But the Millennium Exhibition will certainly require the services of a good many mechanical diggers: the ranters are already performing at high volume. Whether or not the Millennium Commission decides today to hold the festival in Greenwich or in Birmingham, the merits of the sites ought to speak for themselves. Neither rival need treat the other as though the fate of the world depended upon the outcome.

Much has happened since the commission published its original shortlist last July. Two of the original bidders — Bromley-by-Bow in east London and Pride Park, Derby — are thought to be no longer in contention. The National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham has gathered widespread support among the professional organisers and policymakers, pointing out the defects of Greenwich Port almost as vigorously as it has extolled Brummie efficiency and hospitality. There can be no question but that Birmingham does enjoy some advantages over Greenwich: it has a good transport infrastructure already in place, it is more accessible from Scotland and the North, and the investment which the exhibition will bring with it would reinforce the city's status as a leading venue for trade fairs and shows.

Yet there are also two major objections to the Birmingham bid. The first is geographical. However convenient a Midlands venue may be for many Britons, a London one will always be more attractive for foreign visitors. This is especially true now that the Channel Tunnel has made England accessible from the Continent by land. The second is aesthetic. In the past generation, Birmingham has done much to polish its reputation, and is a cultural centre of international

stance; one need only mention Sir Simon Rattle and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. But postwar planning has left this great metropolis with an urban environment which cannot compare — whether for architectural and historical interest or for shops, hotels, restaurants and other facilities — with that of London.

Greenwich, too, has drawbacks. British Gas has this week reiterated its promise to remove, within the time available, all trace of the former gasworks from the site adjacent to the Blackwall Tunnel by the Thames. It claims that this cannot be done are emanating from the Birmingham camp, they should cease forthwith. But there must remain a question mark over the timetable for developing the site from scratch which Greenwich has set itself. Other aspects of the Greenwich proposals may need to be revised: it strains credibility, for instance, that millions of visitors arriving by car will be carried by boat from satellite car parks in east London and around the M25.

In spite of caveats, Greenwich has the right symbolic and practical credentials to host what ought to be the most important exhibition in Britain since 1851. Greenwich — and Greenwich alone — has the Meridian, The Observatory, the Royal Naval College, the *Cutty Sark*, the parks and other glories of Greenwich will be only a short tram ride away from the exhibition site. The extension to the Jubilee Line will ensure access by Tube — an essential prerequisite which puts the onus on London Underground's contractors to amaze us all by completing their work by the end of 1998.

Above all, Greenwich has London. That tips the balance in its favour. One cannot imagine a foreign Maecenas — the late François Mitterrand, say — or even our own past monarchs, from Alfred to Queen Victoria, missing such a unique opportunity. This is a chance to show the world what remains the finest capital in Europe: a national asset, to be enjoyed and cherished by all.

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS

A new trek begins for de Klerk and his party

Although South Africa's parliamentary elections are not until 1999, F. W. de Klerk is not taking any chances. His National Party — which marched up the hill of apartheid and, ultimately, marched all the way down again — has set in motion a process of renewal. On the agenda is a range of issues, both political and existential: nothing is too sacred for discussion or change. The party, once synonymous with the old South Africa, has determined to leave the shadow to which the new country has so far consigned it.

Mr de Klerk is, in effect, launching his party's next parliamentary election campaign, and is doing so not a moment too soon. He has watched his party's position erode considerably. Formally allied to the African National Congress in a Government of National Unity, the National Party has repeatedly suffered indignities. Although Mr de Klerk is Second Deputy President and a member of Cabinet, the function accorded to him by the ANC in the making of government policy is scarcely commensurate with his constitutional status.

The truth, in this case, is bitter: after dismantling apartheid and losing the elections in April 1994, the National Party has struggled to find a role that makes political sense: and the longer the party remains locked in alliance with the ANC, the harder it will be to sustain and sell an independent political programme. The country's demography would suggest that Mr de Klerk and his political heirs will never again enjoy power. For as long as Nelson Mandela is alive and well, the ANC should prove unbeatable in an election: and as long as his successor does not conduct himself rashly, that supremacy ought to survive the passage of the

Mandela era. If the National Party is ever to succeed in breaking into the ANC vote, it will have to rebuild itself to a new design.

That is precisely what Mr de Klerk and his party's parliamentary caucus have set out to do. How can the National Party widen its appeal? How can it win black voters? One way forward is for it to cease to be regarded solely as the party of rearguard actions. Take the case of General Malan, the former Defence Minister who has been charged in court for his apartheid-era activities. Mr de Klerk, rightly, attacked the Government's ill-judged decision to prosecute the general, arguing that there were many ANC members who were not angels either. Yet in doing so, he merely compounded the growing belief that the National Party has been reduced to a party of protest.

Protest, of course, is not without its importance, particularly at a time of virtual ANC hegemony. But critics of the National Party — and as many well-wishers — continue to ask for proof of fresh ideas. Mr de Klerk has, so far, disappointed them. The latest move, however, is reassuring. The party high command has declared itself willing to change into a "new political movement", based on "Christian principles": these, so far, have been identified as decency in government, ethics, honesty, as well as a commitment to free-market economic principles. In fact, the name "Christian Democratic Party" has been mooted as a more attractive new label. The debate within the party is still young, but it is promising. Mr de Klerk must continue his search for a programme which appeals to all South Africans: his Christian Democrat principles should belong to no one race in particular.

SILENT THUNDER

A language dies — but at least it is recorded first

Another language has left the world, in a catalogue of mortality that passes unnoticed by all but a few grieving specialists. Red Thunder Cloud, whose death at the age of 76 was reported in *The Times* yesterday, was the last man to speak the language of the Catawba tribe, a native American tongue that died with him. By the time of his death, Mr Thunder Cloud was almost as lonely as the world's last speaker of Aore, who happens to be the sole native inhabitant of the island of Aore in the Pacific state of Vanuatu.

For lovers of language, the disappearance of yet another is a cultural impoverishment, at least as hurtful as the extinction of one of the world's species: more so, because while there are millions of species, there are only 6,000 languages, and half are expected to become extinct over the next century. A language wraps up the entire experience of the people who speak it, their history, way of life and common values. Small wonder that proud nations like the Welsh struggle to preserve their native tongue. And no wonder at all that Esperanto, without a people to sustain it, remains the property of a few.

The dangers are greatest for cultures broken on the rock of change. In Australia, two-thirds of the 200 surviving Aboriginal languages are each spoken by fewer than ten people, and only one in ten of those is being learnt by children: the rest are as good as extinct. In the Americas there are more than 100 languages with fewer than 300 speakers,

and even Europe has its threatened tongues, including the Hellenic language of Tsokanian, which is spoken by a tiny group of shepherds in the Peloponnese.

The Babel-count was once much higher. The peak was reached about 15,000 years ago, when there are believed to have been between 10,000 and 15,000 languages, each spoken on average by about 600 people. The invention of agriculture and the beginnings of settled life started the downward trend, accelerated by European colonisation.

For a newspaper written in English to bemoan the loss of languages may strike some as hypocritical, for it is the success of English that has helped to sweep so many other languages out of the way. So universal has it become that it has spawned many varieties, from pidgin to psychobabble, whose speakers find each other hard to understand. But, French paranoia notwithstanding, there is no Anglo-Saxon plot to destroy other languages: it is one of the prices of progress in a technological world for which English has become the common tongue.

For those whose languages face extinction, there is at least the compensation that it is happening at a time when the techniques of recording make it possible to preserve their sounds. Mr Thunder Cloud made recordings of Catawba speech and songs before he died, and they will be accessible to scholars. It is not the same as a living language, but it is certainly better than eternal silence.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Benefits and disadvantages of a 'stakeholder' economy

From the Chairman of Boss Group Ltd

Sir, If Tony Blair's "stakeholder" ideal (letters, January 5, 11, 13) means what we have been doing at Boss Group since we bought the company out of receivership in May 1994, industry should not see it as a threat but as an opportunity: our works productivity is 40 per cent up against all-time best, the order book has tripled, production has doubled, quality is up and defects are down. All that before we embarked on our £10 million investment programme.

Like so many continental and Japanese companies in the UK — and increasingly a growing number of the best British companies — we are treating our employees, white-collar as well as blue-collar, as stakeholders. We commit to them and ask them to give commitment to the company; we inform them about our plans and objectives and work together to achieve them. We try to grow the business, not down-size it. The management realise that they want friends on the shop floor, not enemies.

Whether this can purely be achieved by a "stakeholder" mission statement, with recommendations for best practice or whether it needs more, remains to be seen. In my view, and that of a growing number of business leaders in this country, Britain needs a more modern, better balanced and longer-term orientated corporate governance system to compete on equal terms with their European and Japanese competitors. No way should we adopt the over-regulated German system, but the search must be on for a suitable model, which combines the best of both worlds.

I am glad that this important debate has now started in earnest.

Yours etc,
R. A. BISCHOF,
Chairman,
Boss Group Ltd,
Grovebury Road,
Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire,
January 15.

From Lord Dahrendorf, FBA

Sir, Last summer, when the Commission on Wealth Creation and Social

Cohesion (set up by Mr Paddy Ashdown and chaired by me) issued its first report (leading article, July 26, 1995), one of our recommendations was to recognise the importance of stakeholders for companies and society at large.

There can be no steady economic success — no wealth creation in the full sense — without the commitment of stakeholders. Shareholders, banks, suppliers and customers, local communities, and of course employees all have a stake in wealth-creating businesses which needs to be recognised.

We did not regard the idea as particularly original (indeed, the Royal Society of Arts report on "Tomorrow's Company" which makes the same point had appeared before ours), but we advocated its wider application.

A stakeholder society is an inclusive society. It makes every effort to involve all citizens in the labour market, in the associations of civil society, in the political process.

It is pleasing to see these ideas more widely recognised, not least by Mr Tony Blair in his Singapore speech, but two points of clarification are needed.

A stakeholder society need not be a beer-and-sandwiches-at-Number-10 society. Perhaps the corporatist structures of continental Europe are too easily dismissed in Britain — as by Mr David Willens, MP, in his article of January 11. "Why Blair is not Thatcher", who lists the costs but not the benefits, which are above all a significantly higher standard of living.

Secondly, Mr Blair's advocacy of a stakeholder society has become entangled with the notion of widespread praise for Singapore and its vast public institutions for pensions and housing. If I may quote our report again:

There are many in Western democracies who believe that growth and cohesion can only be achieved if an element of Asian authoritarianism is imported. We do not share this belief, indeed we feel that it must be fought.

It may be pleasing to the casual visitor to see everyone cared for and housed (as well as prevented from chewing gum or throwing away cigarette ends) but one must wonder whether such results can be achieved without banning newspapers or putting opposition members of parlia-

ment (if any) in prison.

The highest priority of a new economic and social policy for Britain is to get as close as possible to squaring the circle of wealth creation, social cohesion, and political liberty.

Yours sincerely,
RALF DAHRENDORF, Warden,
St Antony's College, Oxford,
January 13.

From the Director of the Centre for Policy Studies

Sir, Tony Blair may have begun to recognise the issue of social insecurity and has professed his "stakeholder" idea in response. Historically the term has impeccable left-wing, corporatist credentials. At the very least, "stakeholder" is a warm cosy slogan.

However, it is more likely that "stakeholder" will have been central to the discussion of the two internal Labour working parties, chaired by Andrew Smith and Margaret Beckett, which are due to complete their deliberations soon. They have drawn up detailed plans to increase government interference in business, some of which have legislative implications.

It would appear that these study groups are also looking at the re-direction of investment, a greater role for non-executive directors, restrictions on take-over bids, boardroom seats for company suppliers and changes in voting arrangements for shareholders.

This sort of interference is in addition to Labour's stated commitment to introducing new burdens on industry such as the minimum wage, the European social chapter, a right to union recognition after a workforce ballot, and a right to strike with legal protection from unfair dismissal.

No wonder that Tony Blair tries so hard to persuade business people that they have nothing to fear from Labour; but does his new slogan conceal a return to the dirigiste policies of compulsion which so nearly bankrupted Britain in the 1970s?

Yours sincerely,
TESSA KESWICK,
Director, Centre for Policy Studies,
52 Rochester Row, SW1,
January 16.

Saddam's victims, five years on

From Dr Ron Eccles

Sir, The people of Iraq have now suffered five years of sanctions as a means of bringing Saddam Hussein into line with UN directives. It is surely time for the UN to reconsider its policy of economic sanctions. Iraq's infrastructure was devastated by allied bombing and much of the water and sewage systems are still inoperative. Food and medical equipment are in short supply and there is widespread poverty. Infant mortality is among the highest in the world.

Despite all the predictions that Saddam would not survive more than a few months after the Gulf War he is still firmly in place. The Western powers have shown no resolve to displace him from power as they have provided neither moral nor material support to any of the country's opposition groups.

Support of the Kurds in the north of Iraq would displease our Nato ally, Turkey, and support for the Shias in the south would frighten our oil-rich friends in the Gulf. The mass of the population in Iraq are powerless to dislodge him from his reign of terror and are preoccupied with their own survival and trying to ease the suffering of their children.

It is now time for the UN to lift the sanctions against Iraq and, whilst retaining an effective arms embargo, to allow the sale of oil without restriction. At the same time the UN should guarantee Iraq's sovereignty within its present borders, since any break-up of the state would precipitate long-term instability in the Middle East.

Continuation of sanctions will not force Saddam to limit as he can survive indefinitely on the limited trade now operating across the borders with Jordan and Turkey, but it will mean the deaths of many more innocent children.

Yours etc,
RON ECCLES,
48 Nicholson Webb Close,
Danescourt, Cardiff,
January 11.

All-women shortlists

From Mr Brian Bigmore

Sir, In defending her party's policy of all-women shortlists (report, January 10) Labour's spokeswoman on women's issues, Tessa Jowell, talks about means and ends, and goes on to state: "Equality and democracy are guiding principles of the Labour Party. We do not achieve these by paying them only lip service."

History shows us that, more often than not a flawed means brings about a flawed end. To support her thesis by effectively ignoring two of Labour's guiding principles, whether short-term or not, beggars belief.

What politicians, prospective or otherwise, of all parties should realise is that the problems of this country will never be truly solved until we start appointing the best person for the job irrespective of colour, creed or sex.

Yours faithfully,
B. BIGMORE,
19 Tavistock Road,
Launceston, Cornwall,
January 10.

Disk trouble

From Dr A. H. Landes

Sir, I was amused by Magnus Linklater's article (January 8) on the untimely death of his old computer system. Indeed we have all suffered such breakdowns.

However he is setting a terrible example to unsophisticated or new computer users by not having backed up his hard disk drive in over five years. Backing up files should be a habit inculcated in all users from the first day they lay hands on a keyboard in anticipation of the day when their computer fails. The operative word here is of course "when" rather than "if".

We all need a rather light-hearted approach to computers, but should endeavour not to terrify novices lest we put them off getting involved with the technology.

Yours sincerely,
ALAIN LANDES,
Queen Mary's University Hospital,
Roehampton Lane, SW15.

Adventurous Ashford

From Mr Michael Baker

Sir, Ashford was indeed the engineering hub of the South Eastern Railway (letter, January 12). The line was alleged to operate on the principle of making its third-class carriages so frightful that any prospective passenger would willingly pay the extra fare to go first-class.

The South Eastern was the butt of numerous Victorian jokes. Perhaps the best, retold by the railway artist and historian, C. Hamilton Ellis, concerned a passenger who, on alighting from one of its boat-trains at Dover, exclaimed: "Well, thank God, that's the worst pan of the journey over!"

"Why, how far are you going?" a fellow-traveller asked.

"Kamchatka." Was the reply.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BAKER,
Alderley, 22 Moor Lane,
Rickmansworth,
Hertfordshire,
January 12.

Diva in wartime

From Mr Alan Jefferson

Sir, I am sorry that Bernard Levin ("The diva with a shadow", January 12) should have chosen to focus on one aspect of my biography of Dame Elisabeth Schwarzkopf — that of her having sworn allegiance to the Nazi party.

The details in Dame Elisabeth's rise to fame cannot be glossed over or omitted: they have to be accepted according to the conditions existing in Germany 60 years ago. She had no other outlet for her precocious talent than to be a state entertainer in the Third Reich, the condition for which was party membership.

This part of her life has been blown out of all proportion to the rest of her astonishingly successful career. My book does not attack or criticise her but is a heartfelt appreciation of all the pleasure she has given us.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN JEFFERSON,
Deviock Farm House,
Deviock, Torpoint, Cornwall,
January 12.

Conservation success

From the Editor of International Zoo News

Sir, Your report, "Rare species disappearing without trace" (January 3), lists animals "unlikely to survive another year of attrition". All the species mentioned are undoubtedly on the brink of extinction — or already extinct — as naturally-occurring, wild populations; but a significant number seem likely to be saved from extinction by successful breeding programmes in captivity.

For example the most recent published figures list over 700 scimitar-horned oryx in 70 zoos worldwide, and captive-bred animals have been successfully reintroduced to the wild in two North African countries.

The California condor has been the subject of a dramatically successful last-ditch rescue effort: by 1987 the last surviving wild birds — around 20 in number — had been taken into captivity.

Only five years later captive-bred condors began to be released into the wild under careful surveillance, with long-term plans for the establishment of two wild populations of about 150 birds each.

The zoo population of the Chinese alligator is about 240 and growing, and China's own captive-breeding facility in Anhui province has been almost embarrassingly successful, with a current stock of over 4,000 hatchlings.

I do not want to encourage complacency — the plight of many of the world's wild species can hardly be exaggerated. But at least in some species, successful conservation means that the battle against extinction seems to have been won.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS GOULD,
Editor,
International Zoo News,
80 Cleveland Road,
Chichester, West Sussex,
January 7.

Discarded Tardis

From Mr Bernard Gospel

Sir, I cannot let the report of the reincarnation of Dr Who ("Bad news for Daleks as the doctor is reincarnated", January 11) pass without remark.

The Hendon police box may well be London's last police box, but it is certainly not the last in Britain or even England. A stroll along the seashore here will reveal one surviving example, apparently unused for some years, but there again, Who would know.

Yours faithfully,
B. GOSPEL,
Laurel Cottage,
Bridge Close, Burniston,
Scarborough, North Yorkshire.

Daylight Bill

From Sir Michael Angus and others

Sir, On Friday MPs will have an opportunity to vote for John Bunterfield's British Time (Extra Daylight) Bill (letters, December 21, 30, January 3). If implemented, this measure will save over 100 lives on our roads every year, reduce opportunistic crime, improve our quality of life and significantly boost British industry at no cost whatsoever.

It has been calculated that putting the clocks forward by one hour throughout the year would mean an extra £1.2 billion in earnings for the tourism and leisure industries, resulting in a substantial increase in employment.

It would also improve travel and communication links with the rest of Europe and the growing economies of the Far East while retaining the current overlap in working hours with the United States.

These benefits will accrue to all

The Queen's offer

From Mr George Stern

Sir, Is not Sarah Bradford's story (January 13) of Winston Churchill's dukedom — that the Queen only offered to make Churchill a duke on condition that he refused — a paradigm for the meanness and arrogance of princes?

Without Churchill, Britain would have been conquered and the Queen a penniless refugee. Churchill saved her country and by this enabled her and her family to become what they are now — among the richest and most honoured in the world. A dukedom would have cost them a piece of paper.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE STERN,
6 Eton Court, 6 Shepherds Hill, N6.

Haunting music

From Mr B. J. Francis

Sir, I would like to take issue with your suggestion (report, January 9) that ghostly appearances by Julia Margaret Cameron, the famous Victorian photographer, when music is played at her old home at Freshwater on the Isle of Wight indicate her aversion to music.

There is no evidence that Mrs Cameron disliked music: in fact the reverse is more likely. She always surrounded herself with cultured people, among whom there were almost certainly musicians.

I suggest that her love of music is what causes the manifestations. As for the smell, it is more likely to be that of the chemicals Mrs Cameron used in her photography and was well known to be careless with, sometimes spilling them on her clothing.

Yours faithfully,
B. J. FRANCIS,
4 Heol Tir Coch,
Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan.

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Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

OBITUARIES

RICHARD COBB

Richard Cobb, Professor of Modern History, Oxford University, 1973-84, and Senior Research Fellow of Worcester College, Oxford, 1984-87, died on January 15 aged 78. He was born on May 20, 1917.

DURING an academic career lasting more than 30 years, Richard Cobb shocked, stimulated, instructed and delighted many friends, pupils and colleagues, outraged and made enemies of a much smaller number, and revitalised the study of the French Revolution not only in this country but in France.

Richard Cobb was the son of Francis Hills Cobb of the Sudan Civil Service and his wife, Dora. Though his father died when he was still young, he had a conventional middle-class English upbringing, and was sent to public school (Shrewsbury, which he disliked) before going up to Merton as a Postmaster in 1935 to read Modern History.

Soon after taking a second he went to France to study French history. However, the Second World War broke out shortly afterwards and, after a series of civilian and semi-military postings, Cobb was attached to the Czech Army on liaison duties and served with it in France and Belgium in the closing campaign of the war.

After demobilisation he resumed his historical research in France, acquiring at the same time a knowledge of departmental and municipal archives whose range and breadth was unrivalled among foreign, and probably unsurpassed among French, scholars. Cobb published many notes and articles in these years and began also to prepare a French doctoral thesis (eventually not to be submitted, though later published as a two-volume work, *Les Armées Revolutionnaires*) but he returned to England to take up a lectureship in History at University College, Aberystwyth, in 1955.

That same year, however, he was elected to a fellowship and tutorship at Balliol, where he remained until his election to the Chair of Modern History — this was followed by his translation to Worcester College as a professorial fellow in 1973. He became a Fellow of the British Academy in 1967 (giving the Raleigh Lecture in 1974) and was a visiting professor at the College de France in 1971 and Zaharoff Lecturer at Oxford in 1974. Honorary fellowships were conferred on him by both Balliol (1977) and Merton (1979).

Cobb was his own chronicler, not only in many written pieces which



revealed his outstanding literary power (A *Second Identity*, published in 1969, contains some of the best examples, while *Still Life*, 1983, sketches from his childhood in Tunbridge Wells, transforms autobiography into social history) but also in his conversation, or, rather, his jerky and immensely informative monologues. Like those of other entertaining chroniclers, his narratives wove together fact and fancy: it was not easy to separate them, nor was it rewarding to do so, for one learnt much more by listening to Cobb than by arguing with him.

His narrative gift, too, embellished his history, for he loved a story, though not a well-marked story-line. He never wrote conventional narrative, but always founded his episodic work on a myriad details, episodes and anecdotes: it was in narrating them in such a way as to qualify and confuse

accepted general accounts and generalised argument that his exceptional talent lay.

His pointilliste technique revived the history of the French Revolution (and, for many of his pupils and readers, much of other history as well), not only by drawing attention to neglected detail but by illuminating, with great sensitivity, the Revolution as it swept over those under the harrow. The conventional pieties the hardly spoke of Robespierre but with bitter contempt were overturned by this, but the excitement was more than that of a mere *frondeur*. His history was compelling not only because it demolished existing categories but because it created new ones: it was, though he might have disliked the term ("for myself", he once wrote, "history has never been an intellectual debate"), an intellectual achievement. It was

expressed in a series of books of which the best (because the most structured) was *Les Armées Revolutionnaires*, and a huge list of occasional papers, articles, long reviews and fragments.

The impact which, for ten years or so, Cobb made upon the direction of research in this country was, on the other hand, as much due to personal encounters as to his writing. In the end, that impact slackened, in part, perhaps, because other men found, to their surprise, that their application of the methods of "Richard Cobb" (he treasured the epithet from *Le Monde*) did not yield to them and their readers the excitement his own work conveyed. It was also a qualification of his achievement that he mistakenly involved himself in a scholarly wrangle with the other English historian of his day who made major contributions to the study of the Revolution, Alfred Cobban. Happily, the personal animus which crept into their exchanges was dissipated at the end, and when Cobb paid his last visit to the older historian as he lay on his death bed, they parted as friends. This was characteristic. Cobb could fall out with his friends easily and inexplicably but it was not hard to rebuild one's bridges when a little time had passed. Those who remained unreconciled usually had a quite notable degree of self-regard (a trait he was only too happy to expose by giving their expostulations as wide a circulation as he could).

Hospitable, kindly to those he could help, warm-hearted, deeply in love with France, he belonged to a tradition of English eccentricity for which Oxford seemed a remarkably appropriate setting, disrespectful of its conventional pieties as he strove to be. More sentimental than he dared allow, he in fact loved Oxford and its ways deeply; fortunately, his changing gallery of *bétes noires* could always find new recruitment within a university so diverse. It was there that he made his strongest impact, in the immediate exchanges of personal encounter. Perhaps they also provide a key to his historical achievement, for he was always most happily engaged when recreating the substance of the past at the most personal level — the servant-girl seduced on the 9th Thermidor, or the tap-room brawler turned "de-Christianiser". In illuminating these forgotten lives, he reminded a generation of historians of what they had overlooked, the real and personal abstractions. This was the core of his historical achievement.

Richard Cobb married first in 1951. This marriage was dissolved. He married for a second time in 1963 Margaret Tennant, who survives him along with one son from his first marriage and three sons and a daughter from his second.

ANN ELWELL

Ann Elwell, OBE, intelligence officer and diplomat, died from cancer on January 12 aged 73. She was born on June 16, 1922.



ANN GLASS, later Ann Elwell, was the very model of a wartime "beautiful female spy" as the photographer Angus McBean captured her and Robert Graves described her. She was witty, worldly, a friend of writers and painters (she was artistic and musical), and fluent in French, German, Italian and Spanish.

Her smoker's low voice and laugh seemed a breath from nightclubs and jazz cellars, the crowded rooms she suited so well. But her glamour was deceptive. Unlike the intelligence agent of fiction, always a loner, she combined "the Office" with running a household for her husband, four children and, later, her aged parents, aunt and mother-in-law. She made a genuine success of the multiple roles that modern women grapple with, while always presenting herself as very imperfect, lazy and untidy.

Ann Catherine Glass was the only child of Dr Robert Glass, Royal Navy surgeon turned Bayswater GP (he was on HMS Dreadnought when it sank a U-boat by ramming it in the First World War; the crew said what did it was the weight of "Jumbo" Glass). Her mother, Eileen Smart, was a daughter of the Rector of Tralee, who became Dean of Manchester. Ann was educated at Miss Faunce's school in Bayswater (later Miss Lambert's), and she also had a governess who taught her French and German. The governess's other pupils included Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret Rose.

Ann Glass passed her school certificate at 14. She was sent to the Misses Lestrang's finishing school in Florence, to Germany, and in London to the Monkey Club and the Webber-Douglas drama school (with Michael Coughlin) in the summer of 1939, her mother brought her out, though still only 16, in case there was a war. She was at the last dance at Holland House — soon to be destroyed by a bomb. Staying at Peggy Harmsworth's, she briefly met Henry Yorke (the novelist

Henry Green, who was 34. A year later, Yorke saw her in Bond Street and said: "You are now old enough for me to ask you out." Her friendship with him, and his wife Dig, endured. He was to be the godfather of her third child, Through Yorke, she knew Matthew Smith, Cyril Connolly, William Saroyan, Irwin Shaw and others distinguished in the arts. Matthew Smith painted two portraits of her, one of which he gave to Laurie Lee.

Ann Glass was recruited by MI5 at the age of 18. One of her first jobs was as a script girl on the film *In Which We Serve* — she was there to keep watch on the Italian art director, whom Noël Coward had brought out of internment. She had many admirers, among them in London Charles Collingwood, the United Press and CBS war correspondent, and Dorsey Fisher of the American Embassy. Most of her men friends, like her women friends, were permanent. Her parents took a room for her in the Dorchester during the Blitz (it boomed the deepest shelters) which she hardly used, as she was usually out on the town until almost dawn, walking home reading the morning papers by the light of the fires lit by the incendiary bombs before changing to go to her office at Wormwood Scrubs.

As the war ended, she went to Rome to read captured documents, taking over from Anthony Blunt, who moved to Germany. She worked on Mussolini's suitcase of documents, brought to the British by the Partisans who had killed him.

In 1950 she married Charles Elwell, a naval officer who joined MI5 after the war and became expert on the KGB. As a working couple in Intelligence the Elwells were sent to Singapore, where three children were born. In 1955 they came back to England, where their last child was born in 1958.

Ann Elwell left MI5 and moved to the Foreign Office's Information Research Department (IRD) set up in 1948 to counter communism. She became an expert on the Middle East and made several trips there. She went to Iran, Turkey and Pakistan as part of IRD's help for Cento (the Central Treaty Organisation). When her contacts came to London she used her entertainment allowance to feed them at home, thinking it more welcoming and interesting for them than going out to a restaurant.

In 1962 the Elwells moved to Buckinghamshire, so as to be able to house their children and both sets of their own parents under one roof. Ann Elwell retired from government service in the late 1970s.

She is survived by her husband and two sons and two daughters.

LORD McFADZEAN

Lord McFadzean, KT, chairman of BICC, 1954-73, and deputy chairman of Midland Bank, 1968-77, died on January 14 aged 92. He was born on December 17, 1903.

AS CHAIRMAN for twenty years of BICC, the massive cable and construction group,

William McFadzean exercised an immense influence on post-war British industry. He graduated through the traditional school of chartered accountancy, before joining British Insulated Cables in 1932 and overseeing its merger with Callender's Cable and Construction Company in 1945. McFadzean's other interests

in industry and finance read like a catalogue of top British companies. He was a director of Midland Bank during the secondary banking crisis of 1974, and he became the first chairman of the British National Export Council (the precursor of the British Overseas Trade Board) in 1964. He gathered a strong team about

him at the council, and pushed for a strong, imaginative export policy for British companies. His one piece of advice to young industrialists was to study languages, preferably at least six of them, in order to operate more effectively in international markets. McFadzean was not a good

linguist himself but he was indefatigable in touring BICC's numerous foreign outposts. He was also one of the first businessmen to promote the idea of a United Europe, a political entity which, he urged, should grow naturally out of an economic union. Known as Bill to friends, William Hunter McFadzean was born in Stranraer and educated at Stranraer Academy and High School. He remained recognisably Scottish in accent and manner. His father was a cheese merchant but died when he was 15, and McFadzean's biggest family influence thereafter was a maternal cousin, who advised him to join a company which was both international and involved in an expanding field. McFadzean tried to prepare for this by reading both law and chartered accountancy at Glasgow University, but became ill from overwork and took a degree in only the latter before beginning his career as an accountant in 1922.

Graduating in 1922, he served articles with the Glasgow accountancy firm of McEly, McAllister & McGibbon, and five years later he joined the London firm of Chalmer's Wade. One of that firm's clients was British Insulated Cables, whose staff he joined in 1932. He was rapidly promoted — financial secretary in 1937, executive manager in 1942 — and over the next three years he worked closely on plans for the merger with Callender's.

intended to extend the company's reach without exposing it to undue risk. One of the most ambitious of these partnerships brought BICC together with RTZ and British Aluminium. Within 20 years BICC's exports and overseas sales had grown from £3 million to £250 million. McFadzean's help to the export drive was a significant factor in the knighthood he received in 1960, and he was raised to the peerage six years later. He was appointed a Knight of the Thistle in 1976. He enjoyed the atmosphere of the Lords, where he could speak on subjects he knew



He joined the new board of British Insulated Callender's Cables (BICC) in 1945. He was made chief executive in 1950 and chairman in 1954. Thus, from a very early stage in the life of BICC, McFadzean was responsible for its development from a medium-sized cable company to a group with operations across the globe. Arguing that Britain could not provide a sufficiently large stage for the group's operations, McFadzean drove the company abroad through a series of partnerships and co-operative deals. "Our great success forward," as he described it, was

intended to extend the company's reach without exposing it to undue risk. One of the most ambitious of these partnerships brought BICC together with RTZ and British Aluminium. Within 20 years BICC's exports and overseas sales had grown from £3 million to £250 million. McFadzean's help to the export drive was a significant factor in the knighthood he received in 1960, and he was raised to the peerage six years later. He was appointed a Knight of the Thistle in 1976. He enjoyed the atmosphere of the Lords, where he could speak on subjects he knew

about while keeping clear of party politics. He took his enthusiasm for export into wider councils, becoming president of the then Federation of British Industry, 1959-61 (later the CBI); chairman of the British National Export Council, 1960-66, and then president, 1966-68; and a founder of the Export Council for Europe. Exporting, he argued, should be backed by the Government, encouraged by a freeing of world trading conditions and regarded as a permanent goal in itself, not a spasmodic effort to get rid of goods unsold at home.

On retirement from BICC in 1973, McFadzean was made life president of the company and became deputy chairman of National Nuclear Corporation until 1980. But he had also sat on the board of Midland Bank since 1959, and banking was to take up more of his energies. He was deputy chairman of the Midland, 1968-77, when the bank streamlined its operations, bought the Thomas Cook travel agency business (since sold) and dealt with the secondary banking crisis.

However, he never completely dropped his connections with BICC, and kept an office at the company which he attended regularly until he and Lady McFadzean moved to Bath in 1987.

Lord McFadzean is survived by his wife Eileen whom he married in 1933, and by a son and a daughter. An adopted daughter predeceased him.

PERSONAL COLUMN

Advertisement for Personal Column containing various services: Birthdays, Tickets for Sale, For Sale, Overseas Travel, Flights Directory, Capital Flights, Musical Instruments, The Alternative Piano Sale, Markson Pianos, Domestic & Catering Situations, Seeking Care Giver, Trailfinders, and various other notices.

Advertisement for 'Day of Many Explosions' and 'On This Day' (January 17, 1939). It discusses the I.R.A. suspected of being the perpetrator of explosions on the mainland and provides historical context for the events of January 17, 1939.

Transfer fee system offends EU freedom to work principle

Union Royale Belge des Sociétés de Football Association ASBL v Bosman
Royal Club Liégeois SA v Same and Others
Union des Associations Européennes de Football (UEFA) v Same
 Case C-415/93
 Before G. C. Rodríguez Iglesias, President and Judges C. N. Kakouris, D. A. O. Edward, G. Hirsch, G. F. Mancini, J. C. Moitinho de Almeida, P. J. C. Kapteyn, C. Gulmanna, J. L. Murray, P. Jann and H. Ragnemalm
 Advocate General C. O. Lenz
 (Opinion September 20)
 (Judgment December 15)

transfer of Mr Bosman for one year against payment of a fee of BF1,200,000 payable on receipt by the Fédération Française de Football (FFF) of a transfer certificate issued by URBSFA, with the option for a full transfer at a fee of BF4,800,000. Both contracts were subject to the condition that the transfer certificate be sent to FFF in time for the first match of the 1990-1991 season.

RC Liège, which had doubts as to US Dunquerque's solvency, did not ask URBSFA to send the certificate to FFF, and as a result neither contract took effect. In July 1990, RC Liège suspended Mr Bosman, thereby preventing him from playing for the entire season.

It was not necessary, for the purposes of the application of the Community provisions on freedom of movement for workers, for the employer to be an undertaking; all that was required was the existence of, or the intention to create, an employment relationship.

Application of article 48 of the Treaty was not precluded by the fact that the transfer rules governed the business relationships between clubs rather than the employment relationships between clubs and players, as the fact that the employing clubs had to pay fees on recruiting a player from another club affected the players' opportunities for finding employment and the terms under which such employment was offered.

The German Government submitted that sport in general had points of similarity with culture and pointed out that, under article 128(1) of the EC Treaty, the Community must respect the national and regional diversity of the cultures of the member states.

However, the question submitted by the national court did not relate to the conditions under which Community powers of limited extent, such as those based on article 128(1), could be exercised, but to the scope of the freedom of movement of workers guaranteed by article 48, which was a fundamental freedom in the Community system; see, *inter alia*, Case C-19/92 *Kruus v Land Baden-Württemberg* (The Times April 6, 1993; [1993] ECR I-1663, paragraph 16).

The court considered and rejected arguments relating to the difficulty of severing the economic aspects from the sporting aspects of football, the possible consequences of the judgment on the organisation of football as a whole, the freedom of association and autonomy enjoyed by sporting federations under national law, and the principle of subsidiarity.

Article 48 of the EC Treaty, on the freedom of movement of workers, precluded the application of rules of sporting associations whereby a professional footballer could not, on the expiry of his contract with a club, be employed by a club in another member state unless a transfer fee was paid to the former club.

Article 48 provided: "(1) Freedom of movement for workers shall be secured within the Community by the end of the transitional period at the latest.

(2) Such freedom of movement shall entail the abolition of any discrimination based on nationality between workers of the member states as regards employment, remuneration and other conditions of work and employment.

(3) It shall entail the right... (a) to accept offers of employment actually made...

In its judgment the Court of Justice held, *inter alia*, as follows: (1) Article 48 applied to rules laid down by sporting associations such as URBSFA and UEFA which determined the terms on which professional sportsmen could engage in gainful employment, and arguments to the contrary that had been put forward could not be accepted, for the following reasons.

Article 48 not only applied to the action of public authorities but also extended to rules of any other nature aimed at regulating gainful employment in a collective manner, and the abolition of such obstacles to freedom of movement for persons and to freedom to provide services would be compromised if the abolition of state barriers could be neutralized by obstacles resulting from the exercise of their legal autonomy by associations or organisations not governed by public law; see Case 30/74 *Walrave v Association Union Cycliste Internationale* ([1974]

ECR 1405, paragraphs 17-18).

It was true that the transfer rules in issue applied also to transfers of players between clubs belonging to different national associations within the same member state and that similar rules governed transfers between clubs belonging to the same national association, but those rules were likely to restrict the freedom of movement of players who wished to pursue their activity in another member state, by preventing or deterring them from leaving the clubs to which they belonged even after the expiry of their contracts of employment with those clubs.

Since they provided that a professional footballer could not pursue his activity with a new club established in another member state unless it had paid his former club a transfer fee agreed on between the two clubs or determined in accordance with the regulations of the sporting associations, the rules constituted an obstacle to freedom of movement for workers prohibited in principle by article 48.

That finding was not affected by the fact that the transfer rules adopted by UEFA in 1990 stipulated that the business relationship between the two clubs was to exert no influence on the activity of the player, which was to be free to play for his new club, as the new club must still pay the fee in issue, under pain of penalties which might include its being struck off for debt, which prevented it just as effectively from signing up a player from a club in another member state without paying that fee.

The rules could only be contrary to article 48 if they pursued a legitimate aim compatible with the Treaty and were justified by pressing reasons of public interest, and even then they would have to be such as not to go beyond what was necessary for that purpose.

In view of the considerable social importance of sporting activities and in particular football in the Community, the aims of maintaining a balance between clubs by preserving a certain degree of equality and uncertainty as to results and of encouraging the recruitment and training of young players must be accepted as legitimate.

However, as regards the first of those aims, the application of the transfer rules was not an adequate means of maintaining financial and competitive balance in the world of football. Those rules neither restricted the right of national associations to make part, as professional players, in football matches; see *Donat*, paragraph 19.

The fact that those clauses concerned not the employment of such players, but their access to employment which the Treaty conferred individually on each worker in the Community rendered nugatory.

None of the arguments put forward by the sporting associations and the governments which had submitted observations, which the court considered, detracted from that conclusion.

Inter alia, although it had been argued that the nationality clauses prevented the richest clubs from engaging the best foreign players, those clauses were not sufficient to achieve the aim of maintaining a competitive balance, since there were no rules limiting the possibility for such clubs to recruit the best national players, thus undermining that balance to just the same extent.

3 For reasons given by it, the court held that there should be a temporal limitation of the effects of its judgment in relation to transfer fees.

As to nationality clauses in the light of the *Walrave and Donat* judgments, it was not reasonable for those concerned to consider that the discrimination resulting from nationality clauses was compatible with article 48 of the Treaty, so that there were no grounds for a temporal limitation in that regard.

On those grounds, the European Court of Justice ruled: 1 Article 48 of the EC Treaty precluded the application of rules laid down by sporting associations whereby a professional footballer who was a national of one member state could not, on the expiry of his contract with a club, be employed by a club of another member state unless the latter club transferred, training or development fee.

2 Article 48 precluded the application of rules laid down by sporting associations whereby, in matches in which they organised, football clubs could field only a limited number of professional players who were nationals of other member states.

3 The direct effect of article 48 could not be relied on in support of claims relating to a fee in respect of transfers, training or development which had already been paid on, or was still payable under an obligation which arose before the date of the present judgment, except by those who had brought court proceedings or raised an equivalent claim under the applicable national law before that date.

4 The same principle applied to clauses contained in the regulations of sporting associations which restricted the right of nationals of other member states to take part, as professional players, in football matches; see *Donat*, paragraph 19.

The fact that those clauses concerned not the employment of such players, but their access to employment which the Treaty conferred individually on each worker in the Community rendered nugatory.

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In *Donat*, paragraphs 14-15, the court had held that the Treaty provisions concerning freedom of movement for persons did not prevent the adoption of rules or practices excluding foreign players from certain matches for reasons

which were not of an economic nature, which related to the particular nature and context of such matches and were thus of sporting interest only, such as, for example, matches between national teams from different countries. It stressed, however, that that restriction on the scope of the provisions in question must remain limited to its proper objective.

In the present case, the nationality clauses did not concern specific matches between teams representing their countries but applied to all official matches between clubs and thus to the essence of the activity of professional players.

In those circumstances, the nationality clauses could not be deemed to be in accordance with article 48 of the Treaty, as otherwise that article would be deprived of its practical effect and the fundamental right of free access to employment which the Treaty conferred individually on each worker in the Community rendered nugatory.

None of the arguments put forward by the sporting associations and the governments which had submitted observations, which the court considered, detracted from that conclusion.

Inter alia, although it had been argued that the nationality clauses prevented the richest clubs from engaging the best foreign players, those clauses were not sufficient to achieve the aim of maintaining a competitive balance, since there were no rules limiting the possibility for such clubs to recruit the best national players, thus undermining that balance to just the same extent.

3 For reasons given by it, the court

Meaning of 'establishment' for redundancies

Rockfon A/S v Specialarbejderforbundet i Danmark, acting on behalf of Nielsen and Others
 Case C-449/93

The First Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Communities so held, *inter alia*, on December 7 when answering the question referred for a preliminary ruling under article 177 of the EC Treaty by the Østre Landsret (Eastern Regional Court), Denmark, by order of November 16, 1993, in proceedings concerning a claim for compensation by employees dismissed by Rockfon A/S, a company in a group.

By internal instructions in the group, any decisions on dismissals of Rockfon employees had to be taken in consultation with the personnel department of another company in the group. It was not disputed that in the event Rockfon on its own was an "establishment"

The term "establishment" in article 1(1)(a) of Council Directive 75/129/EEC of February 17, 1975 (OJ 1975 L48/29) relating to collective redundancies meant, depending on the circumstances, the unit to which workers made redundant were assigned to carry out their duties, and it was not essential, in order for there to be an "establishment", that the unit had a management which could effect collective redundancies independently of other units in a group of companies.

The question was whether the unit had a management which could effect collective redundancies independently of other units in a group of companies.

The court said that the meaning of "establishment" was to be assessed having regard to the objective of the directive, namely the protection of workers in the event of collective redundancies, and if a company such as Rockfon were held not to be an "establishment", that would allow companies belonging to the same group to try to make it more difficult for the directive to apply to them by conferring on a separate decision-making body the power to take redundancy decisions.

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Journalists are often blamed for whipping up public fears but statisticians could help by making their figures more accessible

The chances are we won't understand

TEACH MORALS in school? Teach probabilities instead. The country is in a sad state indeed when people worry more about terrorist attacks than accidents in the home.

torment, starting with comparative fares. Rail or air? Coach or car? Which airline? People who are really nervous might worry whether they should ever go to San Francisco. There are calculable odds on being there the day the "big one" strikes.

Most of us want to be realistic about life's dangers but we are not helped by the way they are presented from on high. The Department of Health recently demonstrated how not to do it. It sent a warning to doctors about certain oral contraceptives. When the news got into the press and panic developed, women were told they should consult their doctors if they were worried.

rise in pregnancies among unmarried teenagers. How much better if the fear had been anticipated and the news had been given out publicly, preceded by a health warning: the risk of thrombosis from pregnancy is greater than that from any oral contraceptive. Most of us, says the British Medical Association, consider a

one-in-a-million risk not worth bothering about. This useful measure ought to be applied whenever possible. All medical news stories should be balanced by illustrations of the chances of encountering the hazard in question.

above all a high-principled, steely businessman who knows how to do the job in hand. Sworn to respect the BBC's impartiality, he will do it. Whether his closeness to the John Birt, the Director-General, is to the BBC's advantage is another matter. There is a natural antagonism between the corporate roles of chairman and chief executive to which friendship could add either over-costness or stress.

chairman of the Hammersmith Hospitals Trust. What is certain is that Sir Christopher knows the business of television and his regulation inside out and he will confidently steer the BBC through the shoals ahead: renegotiating the level of the licence fee, appointing for reappointing a new Director-General and solving the sports-and-satellites problem. It is less sure whether he will restore the BBC's staff morale. I once got into a casual disagreement with him and wished I hadn't.



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While Eddy Shah was depicted as an ogre by Spitting Image for trying to start a non-union newspaper, Murdoch moved his newspapers to Wapping, bypassing the unions and sparking nightly clashes between pickets and police



Wapping saved the newspaper industry

It is ten years since Rupert Murdoch set out to break the stranglehold of the print unions. Andrew Knight assesses the impact for editors and readers

en years ago an upheaval began in the newspaper industry whose results today are wholly normal. When measure the change that taken place since the soil at Wapping, however, startling.

graph was effectively bankrupt and failing as a product. Both are now prime newspapers. Later that same year The Independent was to teach three slumbering broadsheets (the Telegraph, Times and Guardian) how to improve many aspects of their newspapers. Yet even The Independent would not have survived so long without Wapping.

newspaper. In Fleet Street, it was harder for a new voice like mine to persuade harassed managers and editors than the comfortable union bosses that "1986 will be the year of Murdoch not of Shah".

picked up by Eddy Shah at Warrington. Then the huge challenge of the miners' strike had to be dealt with on a national level. Finally, came Wapping.

Gromit to the rescue

THERE no end to the yements of Wallace and Gromit, the plasticine creations of the Bristol-based animator Nick Park.

Why must the press depict everyone with mental illness as a crazed killer, asks Ruth Runciman

Tell the truth about Broadmoor

Broadmoor Hospital occupies a special place in the public's imagination. Everyone has heard of it, but not everyone will know that it is one of the NHS's three Special Hospitals, which provide care and treatment for patients defined as having "dangerous, violent or criminal propensities".



Typical sensational headlines when the Princess of Wales visited Broadmoor

coverage is unmistakable: it demoralises professionals, damages and confuses patients, and undermines public understanding. The only remedy open to the hospitals is to complain to the papers and the Press Complaints Commission.

Table with columns: Date, Time, Producer, Genre, Aud (Millions) AT 4+

NEWS

Terrorists hijack Black Sea ferry

Chechen rebels seized a Turkish ferry in the Black Sea port of Trabzon, killing one passenger and threatening to shoot all the Russians on board. The 20 Chechens armed with rifles took over 90 minutes before the ferry was to leave for Sochi.

The dramatic new confrontation with the Kremlin came as Russian special forces continued for the second day to try to free a hundred hostages held in southern Russia. Pages 1, 10

TUC chief hails stakeholding

The leader of the trade union movement fuels the political dispute over Tony Blair's plans for a "stakeholder economy" by asserting that it will help the unions to rebuild their influence. John Monks, general secretary of the TUC, writes in The Times that independent unions are "the means for individuals to exercise their voices". Page 1

Stage language

Trevor Nunn, the theatre director, attacked Sir James Spenser, the Royal Opera House Opera Board chairman, for calling him a "bastard" during a television documentary. Page 1

Ski tragedy

Kirsteen McGibbon, Britain's female downhill skiing champion, was killed after crashing during training for the Lowlander championships in Austria. Page 1

Heseltine gaffe

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, inadvertently disclosed the monthly unemployment figures a day before their official publication. Page 2

Parents found dead

The parents of a schoolgirl who was found dead with a tie looped round her neck after being scolded about her untidy room were discovered hanged. Page 3

Tree evictions

Evidence against "professional protesters" compiled by a private detective agency will be used by Government solicitors next week to evict the tree-house dwellers delaying construction of the Newbury bypass. Page 4

Trawler disaster

Six novice sailors were sent to their deaths aboard an unseaworthy trawler that capsized off the Cornish coast, a court was told. Page 5

Lancashire - the dream of a Queen

The quiet backwater to which the Queen dreams of retiring is the Hodder Valley set in 6,000 acres of Crown lands in the Forest of Bowland, close to the market town of Clitheroe, Lancashire. In Sarah Bradford's biography Elizabeth the author writes: "There is a valley in Lancashire of which she said: 'Philip and I would like to retire there'". Page 1

Drop of the hard stuff

A woman is suing a former publisher claiming she suffered brain damage from lead poisoning after repeatedly drinking cider from a painted mug. Page 6

Millennium murmurs

A battle to host the Millennium Exhibition has degenerated into a slanging match as supporters of Greenwich have accused rivals in Birmingham of starting a whispering campaign. Page 8

World Service deal

The Government moved to head off a backbench rebellion over cuts in the BBC World Service budget by announcing a new financing deal. Page 9

India warned

America, detecting signs that India may be preparing a nuclear test, has warned Delhi that benefits will be frozen if an explosion takes place. Page 10

Iraqis spared

A formal surrender of Iraqi forces after the success of the American-led coalition in 1991 was ruled out by former President Bush and John Major because it would have been wrong to humiliate the Iraqi people. Page 11

Germans stunned

President Weizman of Israel stunned Germany with a speech to parliament that addressed the problems still dividing Germans and Jews. Page 12



President Nelson Mandela, in a cricket blazer, with Basil D'Oliveira after a lunch he had for the former England cricketer in Pretoria

BUSINESS

Jobs: Scottish & Newcastle, Britain's biggest brewer, is to shed 1,600 workers from its Halifax and Nottingham breweries and at 13 depots. The cuts follow the takeover of Courage. Page 23

Forto: Granada snapped up 9.2 percent of shares in bid target Forto. Granada's £3.8 billion bid closes next week. Page 23

Mobile phones: Peoples Phone, Britain's largest independent service provider, postponed a stock-market flotation that was expected to have valued the company at around £200 million. Page 23

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 47.9 to 3710.6. Sterling index was unchanged at 83.4 after a fall from \$1.547 to \$1.5383 but a rise from DM2.2359 to DM2.2419. Page 26

SPORT

Tennis: Tim Henman beat Petr Korda, ranked 20th in the world, in the first round of the Australian Open but Greg Rusedski lost in five sets to Boris Becker. Page 44

Football: Paul Ince, who made his last appearance for England in October 1994, has been selected by Terry Venables for squad training at Bisham Abbey. Page 44

Cricket: If England are not to go to the World Cup demoralised and unsettled, they must rally their strength and beat South Africa in one-day internationals three times in five days. Page 41

Racing: Edward Gillespie, the acting clerk of the course, was fined £600 for his role in the late abandonment of a meeting at Cheltenham last month. Page 39

A to Z

Meet three millennia of secret geniuses, from Emily Dickinson, who wrote 800 pages of unpublished poetry, to Adolphe Sax, who invented the sound of 20th-century American angst. Page 32

Surprise hit: When the British director Mike Figgis made his latest film, Leaving Las Vegas, he expected it to be no more than a modest art-house success. Now it's tipped for the Oscars. Page 33

Late debut: Korngold's 1920 opera Die tote Stadt had to wait until now for its first British performance. Page 33

Mixed fortunes: Stephen Upton's production of Macbeth for English Touring Theatre is a lot clearer than several recent productions, but lacks atmosphere. Page 34

ELIZABETH AND CHARLES

Devotion to duty left its mark on Charles. A look at the man who tightens the royal purse strings. Page 13

Design victims: Christian Lacroix, the couturier, and Patrick Mauriès have just published a wickedly satirical book lampooning 30 years of interior design. Page 15

Nineties man: The label said Eighties menswear "that would never go out of fashion". Now the range has had to change. Page 14

Anniversary: It is ten years since Rupert Murdoch broke the stranglehold of the print unions. Much that we now take for granted was made possible by the move to Wapping. Page 21

Stopping the rot: You can dream about repairing a romantic ruin but when it comes to reality the difficulties could make you think again. Page 30

What has happened to our red-blooded, blue-blooded youth? They are all timid, insipid types tapping away at the Internet and worrying about the stakeholder economy. It is a sad business. Page 19

"Stakeholder" ideal: Iraqi people's plight after five years of sanctions; extra daylight Bill. Page 17



IN THE TIMES

DYING TO DRINK

Geoff Brown reviews Nicolas Cage sozzled with a showgirl in Leaving Las Vegas

BOOKS

Are Jews facing the biggest ever threat to their survival, asks Julia Neuberger

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Rippling muscles, hair transplants - the look is the thing for Hollywood Men (ITV, 9pm). Review: Lynne Truss on fraught days and unruly nights at the opera. Page 43

OPINION

Battle sites

The Millennium exhibition is a chance to show that London remains the finest capital in Europe: a national asset, to be enjoyed and cherished by all. Page 17

Christian democrats

De Klerk must continue his search for a programme which appeals to all South Africans: his Christian Democrat principles should belong to no one race. Page 17

Silent thunder

Another language has left the world, in a catalogue of mortality that passes unnoticed by all but a few grieving specialists. Page 17

SIMON JENKINS

As one knife plunges into the career of the box office manager, so another plunges into Carmen to the same music. As the stagecrew "go into dispute", the Aida chorus sings of wars past and to come. The web is seamless. Page 16

ALAN COREN

Had the inspector taken his brain out of its box for long enough to make the simple phone call to Lego which mine has just done, he would have discovered that Lego do not manufacture little black men. Nor do they manufacture little Bengali men, or little Moroccan men, or little Filipino men, or little Jewish men, or little Seventh Day Adventist men. Page 16

PETER RIDDELL

The Tories will not get very far with scare stories about the union bogey. Nevertheless, the Labour leader needs to provide clarification about what stakeholding means, and about what role the unions would have. Page 9

Professor Richard Cobb, historian of the French Revolution; Lord McPadden, chairman of BICC, 1954-73; Ann Elwell, intelligence officer and diplomat. Page 19

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,066

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-25 indicating starting positions for clues.

- ACROSS
1 Turn and sneer when trapped (8).
5 Religious disunity is obvious in second church mass (6).
8 It provides accompaniment to Pinaflore production (10).
9 Clue that's found in middle of drawer (4).
10 Unpleasant job for a villain? (5,3,2,4).
11 I have come back to make an impression, it's clear (7).
13 Old Northerner you're reportedly painting (7).
15 Date and remove (4,3).
18 Essayist and MP is an odd combination (7).
21 Suspended land work in Babylon (7,7).
22 Dance circle's lost member (4).

Impalpable crossword puzzle with letters A-Z and numbers 1-25.

TIMES WEATHERCALL

Table with weather forecasts for various regions including Greater London, Kent, Sussex, Devon, Cornwall, etc.

AA ROADWATCH

Table with roadworks information for various regions including London & SE, Essex, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, etc.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table with sunrise and sunset times for various locations like London, Edinburgh, Manchester, etc.

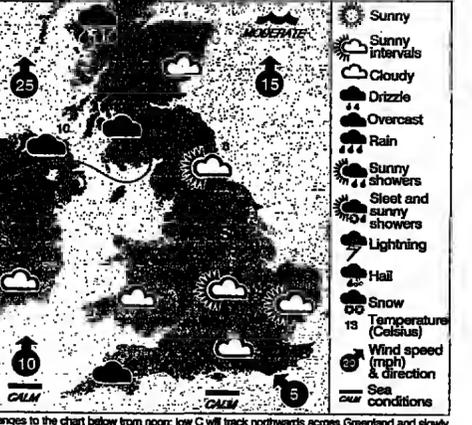
AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table with weather data for various cities like Aberdeen, Glasgow, London, Manchester, etc.

ABROAD

Table with weather forecasts for various international locations like Moscow, Tokyo, Sydney, etc.

Weather map



Changes to the chart below from noon to 6 pm will track northwards across Greenland and slowly to the High E and F will combine and gradually decline in situ. High H will build over Scandinavia

Table with flight times and schedules for various airlines and routes.

Table with flight times and schedules for various airlines and routes, including King's Lynn and Walton-on-Nez.

Advertisement for Bermuda Tourism: 'The outlook in Bermuda is heavenly. For our 1996 brochure, call Bermuda Tourism on 01753 517 517 quoting ref: TWS or see your travel agent.'

هكذا من الأصل

ARTS 32-34

From Tyneside to Hollywood: Mike Figgis makes good

HOMES 30

The stark reality of owning a listed building

SPORT 39-44

Rusedski fails to match Henman's opening victory

TELEVISION AND RADIO Pages 42, 43

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 17 1996

S&N sheds 1,600 jobs after Courage acquisition

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY SCOTTISH & NEWCASTLE, Britain's biggest brewer, is shedding 1,600 jobs at its beer division in a radical restructuring that follows the group's acquisition of Courage last year.

Transport and General Workers Union's national secretary for the drinks industry, said: "The industry is still adjusting to the ill-conceived Monopoly and Merger Commission report The Supply of Beer, which has created a concentration in the industry. Many thousands of jobs have already been lost through this MMC report."

ly is from the reality of insecure Britain." Details are still being finalised and Scottish Courage, the newly created beer division of S&N, said that the job cuts would be made over the next 12 months. The restructuring programme, which follows a six-month review of the business, will cost £150 million in severance payments and other expenses. The company said that the measures would yield annual savings of £75 million. It is not clear yet how many of the job cuts will be forced.

more streamlined structure." Home Brewery in Nottingham will shut by August and Fountain Head Brewery in Halifax by October. Throughout the year there will also be closures of the distribution and sales depots at Stepps in Strathclyde, Garforth near Leeds, Gateshead, Nottingham, Preston, Aylesford, Swansea, Dunstable, Cardiff, Southampton and Merion. Further depot casualties will come from the amalgamation of three London centres and the replacement of Brierley Hill in the West Midlands. S&N is to pull together its trading operations in the new division of Scottish Courage Brands.

The rationalisation by S&N was announced by the company when it took over Courage. At the time, it said how much it intended to spend but was quiet on how the restructuring would be achieved. The City will now focus on how S&N shapes its post-Courage strategy. Matthew Naylor, drinks analyst with Williams de Broe, said: "The cost-cutting was necessary but the company cannot continue slicing at costs. Expectations will be on what new products it can develop. That is the only opportunity to grow the business."

BUSINESS TODAY

Table with financial data including FT-SE 100, US RATE, LONDON MONEY, STERLING, DOLLAR, and NORTH SEA OIL.

Granada raid grabs 9% of Forte

GRANADA snapped up £340 million of Forte shares in a 30-minute stock market raid yesterday and said the speed of the purchases indicated that the takeover bid was going in its favour. Granada, whose £3.8 billion hostile bid closes on Tuesday, bought 87.5 million Forte shares, equivalent to 9.2 per cent of the share capital, at 384p apiece. The price was the same as the value of its shares and cash offer at the time of the purchases, which occurred between 10.45am and 11.5am. The all-cash alternative is worth 362p.

up 14.4p, while Granada shares finished at 693p, up 23p. The identity of the sellers is unknown, although some were said to be market-makers. The names of the institutions which sold 1 per cent or more of Forte's shares were revealed today in so-called Rule 8 disclosures. Mercury Asset Management, Forte's largest shareholder with more than 15 per cent, would not comment on whether it had sold Forte shares yesterday. A Granada adviser called Granada's open-market raid "a very good sign" but Forte remained defiant. Sir Rocco Forte, chief executive, said: "We remain confident that Forte shareholders will decide this on the merits and will reject this highly leveraged conglomerate bid."



Sir Anthony Tennant, Forte's chairman elect, left, with Burton's John Hoerner

SIB accused of weak stance in pension scandal

A PROGRESS report by the City's most senior watchdog on the £4 billion personal pensions mis-selling scandal has been greeted with dismay. Consumer bodies, unions and MPs united yesterday to condemn the Securities and Investments Board (SIB) for its failure to inflict tougher disciplinary measures on firms and advisers who have missed case review and compensation deadlines. Nearly 1.5 million cases will have to be reviewed for evidence that investors were wrongly advised to leave their occupational or company pension scheme, or not join in the first place, in favour of a personal pension plan. But up to 250,000 investors, who include nurses, miners, local authority workers and police officers, have not received letters from their independent financial adviser (IFA) alerting them to the review. Kate Scribbens of the Consumers' Association said: "The most urgent cases should have been resolved by the end of 1995. Yet most IFAs have not even started the process. We are particularly concerned by the watering down of the review process that will be carried out by IFAs. This appears to be a climbdown by the regulators and a victory for vested interests."

Ms Scribbens added: "We want to see the SIB forcing the pace by ensuring that the next deadlines are met, and cracking down on companies who are dragging their feet." Sir Andrew Large, chairman of the SIB, said that teething problems last year, such as several legal challenges to the review and computer software problems, had now been ironed out. While some companies had done their best to comply with the review and compensation process, others were dragging their heels. Sir Andrew said any company guilty of obstructing the review could face disciplinary action. This might involve hefty fines or even expulsion from the industry. Alistair Darling, Labour's City spokesman, said: "Blaming the delays on computer software isn't good enough. The regulators must... act for the public good." John Monks, TUC general secretary, said: "Some companies have made genuine efforts to compensate those ripped off, but too many are way behind schedule. It is now time for the regulator to crack the whip."

City scents another cut

THE FT-SE 100 index climbed above 3,700 and gills scored gains of about 1% as City hopes rose sharply on the prospect of another interest rate cut (writes Michael Clark). The equity market struggled off an overnight fall on Wall Street to close at its best of the day with a rise of 47.9 to 3,710.6. It was the market's best one-day performance for three months and leaves it just 18 points shy of its record. Brokers were hopeful that today's meeting between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, will pave the way for a rate cut. Stock market, page 26

Peoples Phone postpones planned £200m flotation

PEOPLES PHONE, Britain's largest independent mobile-phone service provider, yesterday postponed a flotation planned for next month that was expected to have valued it at about £200 million. Directors yesterday blamed trading conditions in the UK mobile-phone market for the decision. They said the market had failed to live up to expectations in the run-up to Christmas and this affected sentiment towards the company. It claimed 7 per cent of the market of 5 million subscribers. Peoples Phone said its market share in December was below internal forecasts and this is likely to have continued into January because of competition from other retailers. The company, however, expressed confidence about the medium and long term saying that growth in the UK mobile-phone market is expected to continue. Peoples Phone has a nationwide chain of 175 showrooms and claims more than 365,000 customers. Existing backers include Singer & Friedlander, the investment bank, and the Ivory & Stone fund-management group. Tony Solomons, Singer & Friedlander's chairman,

Banks call for clear policy on 'Euro'

of preparations for a single currency they needed to make. He said political and Bank of England leadership was needed to confront the problem; it should not be left to the banks. Under the current timetable, full monetary union is due to be achieved in 2002. However, Britain can opt out of single currency under an agreement in the Maastricht treaty. Mr Hawkins said: "In order to prepare ourselves for 2002, we are having to make quite large investment decisions in a scenario where it is quite unclear whether we are going to be in or out." He said the position of rival

French and German banks was much clearer as they increasingly operate on a Europe-wide basis and "operate in a much clearer policy position". Afterwards he said: "We need to make the right moves now to make sure that London is not disadvantaged. In order to do that in a sensible way, we need decisions and support from the authorities."

Tim Sweeney, BBA director-general, said he was concerned that if Britain opted out of a single currency, it could face discrimination in the European system by which banks settle transactions with each other.

Banks call for clear policy on 'Euro'

By PATRICIA TEHAN BANKING CORRESPONDENT BRITISH banks are finding it impossible to plan for the arrival of the new "Euro" because of political indecision, according to senior bankers. Gerald Hawkins, chairman of an industry committee working on the implications of the single currency and a general manager of payment services at Lloyds Bank, told a House of Lords committee that banks were "operating in a policy vacuum". Mr Hawkins is chairman of a joint British Bankers' Association (BBA) and Asso-

ciation for Payment Clearing Services (Apacs) steering committee on economic and monetary union (EMU). A BBA paper on single currency estimated that British banks would have to spend at least £914 million to prepare for the Euro if Britain opts into the single currency, but less than half that amount if it opted out. The paper was given to the House of Lords Select Committee on the European Communities as part of its inquiry on Emu. Mr Hawkins said that bank boards were having to take decisions on spending without knowing what sort

of preparations for a single currency they needed to make. He said political and Bank of England leadership was needed to confront the problem; it should not be left to the banks. Under the current timetable, full monetary union is due to be achieved in 2002. However, Britain can opt out of single currency under an agreement in the Maastricht treaty. Mr Hawkins said: "In order to prepare ourselves for 2002, we are having to make quite large investment decisions in a scenario where it is quite unclear whether we are going to be in or out." He said the position of rival

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Virgin consortium on track for £3bn channel tunnel contract

Treasury backs L&CR rail link bid

By Jonathan Prynn
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT
TREASURY officials are pressing ministers to award the £3 billion Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL) contract to London & Continental Railways (LCR), the consortium that includes Virgin Group and National Express, the bus company.

The group of senior civil servants and bankers advising the Government on awarding the contract believe that only L&CR has the necessary transport experience to turn struggling Eurostar into a profitable operation.

They fear that the rapidly deteriorating financial performance of Eurostar is threatening the viability of the project.

transport operators among its shareholders. A formal recommendation from the advisory group is due to be presented to Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, this week. He will make the final decision after securing agreement from Cabinet colleagues. A Commons statement announcing the award of the contract is planned for late January or early February.

Officials have been alarmed by the disastrous finances of Eurostar, which has seen its Government subsidy soar to more than £200 million over the past year. Original financial projections forecast that the Eurostar would now be in profit and contributing to the cost of building the 68-mile rail link. As recently as November 1994, the loss for the current year was forecast at about £100 million, half the actual level.

The losses have been caused by massive shortfalls in the number of passengers using the train, which runs between Waterloo International and Brussels and Paris. Just over 3 million passengers travelled on Eurostar last year, its first full year of operation, compared with the 16 million forecast in 1987.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Index points the way for Littlewoods

LITTLEWOODS, the pools to mail order company, yesterday revealed strong sales over Christmas, helped by a particularly strong performance by its Index catalogue shops. The company reiterated that profits for the year to December 30 would fall to match those achieved last year. The company said that sales in its UK retail divisions in the six weeks to December 30 rose 7.4 per cent. The Index catalogue shops lifted sales by 9.8 per cent, while the home shopping division lifted sales by 7 per cent and the chain stores lifted sales by 6.3 per cent.

Late last year, Littlewoods' owners, the Moores family, rejected two informal takeover approaches that valued the group at £1.1 billion. The shareholders rejected advances from Barry Dale, a former chief executive, and a consortium offer from N. Brown and Ireland, opening instead for a more orderly process for deciding the group's future ownership.

Welsh Water lifts stake

WELSH WATER, which is challenging Ian Byatt, the water regulator, over his demands for a separate listing of the water business after a planned merger with South Wales Electricity, now controls 59 per cent of its bid target. A decision on the bid by Welsh, which would create the country's second super-utility after North West Water and Norweb became United Utilities, is due from Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, by January 25. Swalec recommended the £872 million bid after protracted talks.

Microgen profits up 36%

MICROGEN Holdings, the specialist computer services company, reported a 36 per cent rise in profits to £8.4 million before tax in the year to October 31, on turnover of £69 million, up from £58.77 million. The company has lifted the total dividend to 7.5p a share from 7.25p, with a 5.2p final. Earnings rose to 14.8p a share from 10p. The shares advanced 15p to 191p. Microgen ended the year with net cash of £2 million, compared with borrowings of £2.4 million a year earlier, despite capital expenditure of £6 million.

McKechnie in US deal

McKECHNIE, the plastic and metals components group, continued its expansion into the US market with the purchase of Thompson, a wheel-trim manufacturer, for £32 million. The acquisition pleased the City and shares rose 8p to close at 421p. McKechnie has been reducing its reliance on the UK market. In November it bought Valley Toledo, the US company which makes parts for the aerospace industry, for £7.4 million. McKechnie said yesterday's purchase would open access to the US market and new technologies.

AT&T London move

AT&T, the US telephone company, has signed an interconnection agreement with City of London Telecommunications. Colt, as it is known, will provide AT&T with access to its fibre-optic network, which connects about 380 buildings in the City and Canary Wharf. The arrangement is non-exclusive. Colt also has interconnection agreements with BT, Mercury, E-nergis and others. BT also announced that it and International Telecom Japan, will jointly provide Concert network voice services in Japan from this summer.

Eleco rights issue

ELECO HOLDINGS, the structural and engineered products company, is raising £2.09 million through a rights issue to reduce borrowings and to fund development. Three new shares are being offered for every ten held at 28p each. Existing shares were unchanged at 31p yesterday. The company is raising a further £625,000 through the sale of surplus land, subject to planning permission. Shareholders were promised an interim dividend of 0.25p. Eleco reiterated its confidence for 1996 as a whole.

Siebe sells filters arm

SIEBE, the diversified engineering group, has sold its British Filters business to Quinton Hazell, the European subsidiary of America's Echlin, for £4.8 million. British Filters manufactures air, oil and fuel filters for the after-market and automotive industry and specialist filtration equipment for industrial uses. Separately, Siebe has named Stuart Amos as president and chief operating officer of its diversified products division. His appointment follows the death of Brian McMahon, who had held the post, in an air crash.

Matthew Clark buys

MATTHEW CLARK, the UK drinks company, has acquired Dunn & Moore, the Scottish delivered wholesale divisions of The Joseph Dunn Group, for up to £5.75 million. The business will be integrated with Matthew Clark's existing national wholesale division, Freeraders Group. In the year to March 31, Dunn & Moore generated a turnover of £27.5 million. Matthew Clark will pay an initial consideration of £3.75 million, with further deferred profit-related payments of up to £2 million over the period to April 2000.

Churchill's brainchild in birthday merger

Two into one goes at the CSO

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent
The Central Statistical Office, set up by Winston Churchill as part of his war effort, is today celebrating not only its 55th birthday but its last. The CSO, which has been headquartered in the same building as the War Cabinet on Horseguards Road since it was set up, is merging with the Office of Population Censuses & Surveys and moving to new offices in Pimlico. As the CSO puts it, Churchill's wartime baby is getting married and leaving home. In suitable celebration of both anniversary and merger, which brings together economic and social figures for the first time, the CSO offers a fascinating pot pourri of both types of statistics. Did you know that a pint of bitter cost the equivalent of four pence in 1941 but will nowadays set you back £1.49? Consider that there were 1.9 million private cars then and more than 30 million now. And what of divorce: there were barely 7,000 in 1941 against 160,000 a year now. In his request for such a knowledge machine, the Prime Minister said: "It is essential to consolidate and make sure agreed figures only are used. The utmost confusion is caused when people argue on different statistical data." With the Conservatives and Labour currently engaged in a battle of statistics, married in full-page newspaper advertisements to support their causes and naturally completely contradictory, this is as true today as it was 55 years ago.

Barclays wins Barings deal on asset management

By Patricia Tehan, Banking Correspondent
BARINGS is to close its custodian business in July and recommend that asset management clients representing assets worth £10 billion use Barclays Bank for global custody services instead. A growing number of fund managers are seeking to hand over custodian services to a third party because of the growing need for economies of scale in global custody. The perceived need to concentrate on core business activities and as a result of the collapse of Barings last year. Baring Asset Management ran into controversy after the collapse of Barings, Britain's oldest merchant bank, in February last year. Asset management clients had used Barings as their custodian and signed



Michael Heseltine with the revolutionary glass at Pilkington where he announced unemployment figures

British Gas under pressure on servicing arrangements

By Christine Buckley
LABOUR yesterday demanded an inquiry into the failure of British Gas to offer non-contrast service work to large parts of the country. Nigel Griffiths, the Shadow Consumer Minister, said: "Many people simply cannot afford expensive maintenance contracts. The backlog is a result of axing 25,000 jobs." Mr Griffiths urged Tim Eggar, the industry minister, to raise the issue with Ofgas, the gas industry regulator. He said: "Safeguards which Labour demanded during the 1995 Gas Act were rejected by Tim Eggar. Now millions of gas customers are facing the consequences." Mr Griffiths said that the problems revealed by The Times reinforced complaints about servicing arrangements received by his office. British Gas yesterday said that the suspension of on-demand servicing and repairs applied only to pockets of the country

Heseltine marks visit with error

By George Sivell
MICHAEL HESELTINE, the Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday welcomed the 28th successive monthly fall in unemployment figures at a visit to the Pilkington Technology Centre at Lathom in Lancashire. However, the figures are not due to be announced until 9.30am today by the Central Statistical Office. Economics announcements are regarded as price sensitive and are supposed to be kept secret until their release time. Mr Heseltine was launching a mirror-making process but his error is likely to cause an outcry because economics announcements are regarded as highly price sensitive. The new Pilkington mirror process enables a reflective surface to be put onto the glass as it is being made. Pilkington has little involvement in the mirror market at present. It normally sends out the glass to be silvered by other suppliers. Heseltine's gaffe, page 2

Table with 2 columns: Country, Bank, and Rate. Includes entries for Australia, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and USA.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR LICENCE TO THE CHIEF OF THE DISTRICT OF...
NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERS...

PUBLIC NOTICES
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: LICENCE TO OPERATE THE SHEUNG SHUI SLAUGHTERHOUSE
The Hong Kong Government is planning to construct a new slaughterhouse in area 23 of Sheung Shui, for completion in October 1998. The new Sheung Shui Slaughterhouse (SSSH) will replace the Government-owned Cheung Sha Wan Abattoir and Kennedy Town Abattoir and the privately owned Yuen Long Slaughterhouse. Situated on a 5.7 hectare site, the slaughterhouse will have a slaughtering capacity of 5,000 pigs and 400 cattle per day. The Hong Kong Government intends to engage a private company in the operation and management of the SSSH, and now invites companies with experience in the operation of large-scale slaughterhouses to express interest for the licence to operate the Sheung Shui Slaughterhouse.

Bank flotation ends early

THE Bank of Scotland was yesterday forced to close the public share offer for 40 per cent of BankWest, its Australian bank, more than three weeks early in the face of overwhelming demand for the shares, sparking off accusations that it had acquired the bank much too cheaply (Rachel Bridge writes). The Bank of Scotland acquired BankWest from the Western Australian government for A\$90 million (£436.89 million) last month and agreed to sell down half of the bank to the Australian public as part of the conditions of the sale. Jim McGinty, state opposition leader, claimed yesterday that the early closure of the float vindicated his view that the price paid by the Bank of Scotland had been too low.

Advertisement for 'We're famous for our facilities' featuring contact information for Kevin Sheehan, phone number 01 202 456400, and details of services like conferences, exhibitions, seminars, and meetings.

Handwritten Arabic text: 550 من الأمل

□ The SIB needs a greater sense of urgency □ Weighing up the cost of EMU □ Flim-flam merchants back in favour

Wanted: a watchdog, not a lapdog

THE Securities and Investment Board's so-called "progress report" would be the occasion for great hilarity, but for the genuine and widespread financial hardship the pensions review was set up to ameliorate.

Consider the SIB's first two bullet points, as it lists 15 months of achievements. The good news is that the review programme, wait for it, "is under way". Even better, and please try to control your excitement at the back, "all the front line regulators are taking the work forward with determination".

As the SIB itself admits, a wide gap has opened up between the progress of the fastest and the slowest firms attempting to identify their respective victims of mis-selling. But the SIB's target dates still remain in place as "progress benchmarks".

The gap has opened up because while some in the financial services arena are willing to accept their responsibility for the mis-selling scandal, others have their reasons for dragging their feet. The big life firms, praised for their progress, have the resources to shoulder those responsibilities. But some have an interest in hurrying slowly, so ensuring that the eventual bill is as small as it can be. The tiny boutiques of independent financial advisers have been even more tardy, because they simply do not have the cash.

Here is one way of shaking the industry out of its meretricious series of condign punishments, whether fines, suspensions or actual expulsions, by some of the junior self-regulatory organisations under the SIB umbrella pour encourager les autres. It is simply not enough, as the SIB

tried yesterday, to put the onus on the customer to respond to letters and questionnaires and speed up the process.

Sir Andrew now has the requisite knightliness in recognition of his services, and it might be time for him to move on. What the customers, as opposed to the industry, need is someone who genuinely wants to be seen to succeed, someone who knows what regulating in public is all about. Someone like Christopher Sharples, perhaps, whose record at the head of another City watchdog, the Securities and Futures Authority, puts Sir Andrew's in the shade.

Banks champing at £1bn Euro-bit

PRACTICAL cost is the last thing ministers will worry about when deciding if Britain should join a European currency. As the banks pointed out yesterday via the British Bankers Association, that cost is not insubstantial. The precisely impressive figure mentioned was "at least" £914 million. Banks worry less about the



enormity of this physical conversion cost than about planning their budgets when they do not have the faintest idea whether they will have to spend it. By emphasising the cost of dithering, the BBA hints at banks' preference for joining at the beginning. They reckon that they will lose out if the Euro is launched without Britain. Apart from international banks suffering dual costs, they fear continental might discriminate against them in payment systems and put them at a competitive disadvantage. Their pleading is forlorn. Even Alexandre Lamfalussy, the experienced banker who heads the European Monetary Institute, accepted this week that

the case for keeping to the Maastricht timetable against all common sense evidence was political, in the greater cause of making future non-economic moves to advance European union look more credible.

At home, there is no party case for the Cabinet to decide whether to exercise its opt-out. Any decision would annoy some, and no choice need be made before the election. This makes life yet more confusing for bankers. They believe the Government would not actually join but also know that ministers are anxious, for other reasons, to meet the Maastricht tests on time.

The electoral betting is, however, that Labour will make the final decision in two years' time. Though enthusiastic in theory, Labour is just as anxious not to come to a decision. The likelihood is therefore that neither party will even have hinted at a decision by next spring.

up, it will have to import a load of hardware and software already designed and built on the Continent to cope with it.

Consultancy spree

THEY arrive at your door, eyes apleam and flip-chairs poised. If you are foolish enough to let them in, you are in for many hours of corporate flim-flam about strategising this and prioritising that, and a hefty bill. If you are even more foolish, some 16-year-old with an Apple Mac will redesign your annual report from an original idea by Mark Rothko.

They are several stages in the food chain below management consultants or the spin doctors of the City, but their star, too, is in the ascendant. They are the corporate consultants, advising on anything from the care and feeding of the local regulator to finding the right corridor in Whitehall.

One of them was bought yesterday, a rare event in these times. Fishburn Hedges went for

something like seven times expected taxable profits by the end of the decade, or six times what it made last year. This is a chunky multiple for a business with virtually no assets except its staff, in a trade notoriously prone to sudden walkouts and schisms — like the one five years ago that led to its creation.

Trend-watchers might note that the last time public relations firms were going for such fancy numbers and on delayed payment packages that assumed they would be around long enough to earn them was a decade ago, with names like Saatchi and WPP doing the buying. It all ended in tears, and a market crash.

Contracting out

THE Greenbury Report's bid to lighten up on directors' service contracts may be an own goal, according to a study of changes in the Stock Exchange listing rules by Irwin Mitchell. The new definition of such contracts may exclude some of those neat fixed-term or rolling contracts that have caused all the fuss, the lawyer claims. So they will no longer need to be available at the annual meeting or even be disclosed in circulars to shareholders. These are often the only routes by which the inquisitive can find out about such things.

Estate agent's shares tumble

Shares in Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks Holdings fell 6p to 41p after the estate agent and surveyor specialising in commercial property cut its interim dividend to 0.6p (1.5p) after a 47.6 per cent slump in profits.

The effects of a subdued property market in 1995, with tenant demand showing few signs of recovery and lower capital values, led to a slide in pre-tax profits to £937,000 in the half year to October 31 (£1.79 million). The group suffered from weakness in the market and from continuing "significant overcapacity" in the property advisory profession. Earnings fell to 1.22p (2.65p) a share.

Remy strikes flat note

Remy Cointreau struck a sober note yesterday about future performance as it reported that sales had been curbed by resistance to the price increases it has pushed through. The company gave warning that lower volumes would pull down full-year profits. It also said Christmas cognac sales had disappointed. Operating profits for the six months to September 30 were Fr216.4 million (Fr394.1 million).

Dagul quits Southend

Malcolm Dagul is stepping down as chairman and chief executive of Southend Property Holdings after the company's £10.5 million purchase of Old Hall Estates, a private property group controlled by Graeme Jackson and Neil Anker. Mr Dagul has sold his 20 per cent holding in Southend to the vendors of Old Hall, including Mr Jackson and Mr Anker, and N M Rothschild and British Land.

BSE scare hits Sims

Shares of Sims Food Group fell 15 per cent to a new low yesterday after the meat processor and supplier gave warning that there would be no final dividend because of the BSE scare, which has knocked 15 per cent off sales. The shares fell from 33p to 28p — well below the 33p that they commanded in May 1992.

McDonnell and Boeing merger talks break down

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

MERGER talks between Boeing and McDonnell Douglas, the US plane-makers, appear to have broken down amid disagreements over who would run the combined business, and reluctance on the part of Boeing to pay \$12 billion for its smaller rival. NBoth are now thought to be seeking other acquisitions.

News that the talks have foundered will come as a relief to British Aerospace, the world's third-largest defence company after Lockheed Martin and McDonnell Douglas, as well as to BAe's partners in Airbus Industrie, the European civil jet consortium.

But there will be little respite from the pressure on the European aerospace and defence industry from the US. Chris Avery, analyst at Paris Capital Markets said: "I would be surprised if that is the end of US defence consolidation. If anything it will increase McDonnell's efforts to

find another partner and increase question marks over Boeing's defence business." Merger talks were initiated by Boeing to build a defence business to match that created by the combination of Lockheed and Martin Marietta last year. Lockheed Martin, which has since agreed to buy Loral's defence electronics business, will have revenues of more than \$30 billion.

The company dominates the US military aerospace industry, building the Hercules transport, F16 multi-role fighter and F117A stealth fighter-bomber, as well as participating in the forthcoming F22 air-superiority fighter. It expects \$1.8 billion savings a year from its merged activities.

McDonnell, which earns about \$9.2 billion a year from defence, builds the F15 and F18 fighters, the American versions of the Bae Harrier and Hawk, the Apache helicopter and the new C17 jet transport.

Boeing, with defence revenues of \$4.7 billion a year, makes the Boeing 767 airborne early-warning plane, the Comanche light attack helicopter, the V-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft and participates on the F22 programme. Though driven by the need to match Lockheed Martin, the mooted merger was also designed to streamline civil jet activities. McDonnell would have been able to wind down production of its MD-11, which competes with the Boeing 777, while price competition between the MD-95 100-seater and Boeing's baby 737 could have been reduced.

But according to the Wall Street Journal, Frank Schroniz, Boeing's chairman and chief executive, refused demands by Harry Stonecipher, McDonnell's chief executive, for a leading post-merger role. Boeing, worth nearly \$27 billion, also declined to pay a big premium for McDonnell.



Duncan Barnatyan, pictured, chairman of Quality Care Homes, reported profits of £4.8 million before tax (£3.73 million) in the year to October 31. The dividend is 4.95p.

Fishburn Hedges in AMV's net

By PHILIP PANGALOS

ABBOTT MEAD VICKERS, the marketing services group, has acquired Fishburn Hedges Boys Williams, the fast-growing corporate communications company, for a maximum of £15 million.

Peter Mead, AMV's chief executive, said the acquisition of Fishburn Hedges, which specialises in consultancy, public relations and design for the financial and corporate sector, will strengthen the group and boost its existing list of blue chip clients. He said: "This is a classic acquisition for us. We've been following them over the last couple of years. It will be earnings enhancing from day one."

The deal involves an initial payment of £4 million, with four additional payments depending on future performance. To achieve the maximum payment, the Fishburn Hedges will need to make average annual pre-tax profits of £1.5 million in 1998 and 1999. Fishburn Hedges made unaudited pre-tax profits of £1.1 million in 1995. AMV shares climbed 2p to 469p. Pennington, Page 25

PowerGen post goes to ICI chief

DERYK KING, who heads ICI's polyester business, is to be the new managing director of PowerGen, the generator (Christine Buckley writes).

Mr King has held a number of positions at the chemicals company, which has been critical of electricity prices. He joins PowerGen on March 1, bringing expertise in international management at a time when the generator is looking to bolster overseas operations.

Mr King moves into positions as Ed Wallis, the present chief executive, becomes chairman. He succeeds Sir Colin Southgate, who leaves at the end of a three-year term. Mr Wallis will retain responsibility for PowerGen's strategy and external relations.

Later in the year, PowerGen is expected to appoint a new non-executive deputy chairman to comply with the Cadbury and Greenbury codes on corporate governance.

Zeneca leaps on £12bn Roche bid rumour

By ERIC REGULY

SHARES of Zeneca climbed again yesterday on continued speculation that the pharmaceuticals and chemicals group is on the verge of becoming a takeover target.

The shares gained 43p to £12.91, which is within striking distance of their 52-week high of £13.37, and well above their low of \$40p. On Monday, the shares rose 18p.

The latest rumours were that Roche of Switzerland, the rival group, was putting together a £12 billion bank facility to finance a bid. Roche never comments on bid speculation. Analysts downplayed the possibility that Zeneca might lose its independence. Robert Uhl of Salomon Brothers in New York said: "It is of a large enough size to put off most acquirers." At the current market price,



Barnes: little room for cuts

Zeneca has a market capitalisation of about £12 billion. A premium of 25 per cent — anything less would be unlikely because Zeneca would consider any takeover attempt hostile — would raise the price to

£15 billion, or about five times its annual sales.

"That would make it the most expensive takeover in the sector: Glaxo's purchase of Wellcome last year was £3.7 billion sales.

Mark Brewer of ABN-Amro Hoare Govett, the securities group, said Zeneca is more likely to make an acquisition instead of being acquired. He noted that Zeneca considered launching a white knight bid for Wellcome. "That proves they certainly have the capacity to finance a large acquisition," he said.

Mr Brewer said that Zeneca, led by David Barnes, chief executive, is run tightly and would present little room for cost cutting. "We find it difficult to conceive of what value it would give to another company."

Temps, page 26

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Third - And may be most rewarding you'll learn in detail about a number of crafty but simple "behind-the-scenes" techniques that you don't usually get to find out about at all. The kind that can often boost your returns 20, 30, even 50 per cent more - sometimes just in months' time.

FOR EXAMPLE, a little technique called a "straddle". Let's say that the Stockmarket will go up... and at the same time that it will go down - believe it or not, it is perfectly possible to make a profit whether it goes up or goes down!

Surge in earnings by US banks

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

CITICORP led a spate of strong earnings results yesterday from many of America's biggest banks, which reflect the health of the sector and the underlying strength of most borrowers despite sluggish economic growth.

Citicorp's earnings for the fourth quarter of 1995 of \$905 million, or \$1.89 per share, was substantially higher than Wall Street had been expecting. It was \$1 billion lower than at the same time last year only because the 1994 figure included a massive tax break. Income for the whole of last year was \$3.46 billion, up nearly \$100 million on 1994.

Chase Manhattan announced a 48 per cent surge in fourth-quarter earnings to \$340 million from \$229 million for the same period in 1994, as investment banking income hit record levels and consumer lending showed good growth.

Chemical Bank, which is merging with Chase to form the largest bank in the US, also unveiled strong earnings growth as consumer lending produced healthy returns. Fourth-quarter earnings were up 48 per cent to a record \$1.8 billion. Chemical and Chase said that large cost reductions had strengthened their earnings. Further cost cutting will come through as the banks are merged.

First Chicago and the Bank of New

York also turned in strong results for the final quarter and for the whole year, thanks partly to low bad debt provisions.

There had been growing fears over the last few weeks that bad debts, particularly in consumer lending, were soaring but so far these have proved to be unfounded.

Analysts said that banks would continue to perform reasonably well into 1996 although their shares were unlikely to do as well as last year when they rose by more than 50 per cent.

Exceptions to the run of good results were Nations Bank and First Interstate, both of which reported higher than expected bad-debt provisions, reflecting the slightly poorer quality of their loan books.

سكنا من الامل

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Paradise postponed

A CRUMB of comfort for the creditors of Rom Data Corporation, the failed West Country computer firm being investigated by the Serious Fraud Office and Devon and Cornwall police...

It's not the first time that Dawson has had such literary ambitions. In the early 1980s, after John Dawson Motor (Holdings) collapsed with business and personal debts of nearly £2 million...

Smoked fare

LUNCHEON was rudely interrupted at Simpson's of Cornhill in the City yesterday when fire broke out in the chimney of the 1767 building at 210pm...



Audit demon

COOPERS & Lybrand's chosen pantomime this year, at The Mermaid theatre until Saturday, is Mother Goose, directed by Coopers' chairman Terry Middleton...

WHAT'S in a name? The Granada offshoot that yesterday mopped up Forte shares is called Altiqnet Trading.

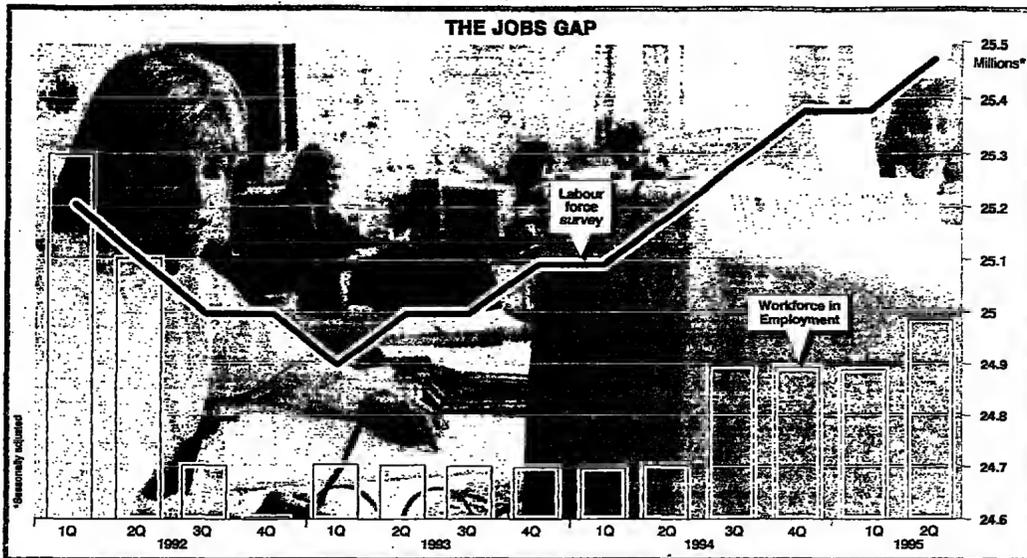
Team deal

FURTHER to a City Diary alert last August 10 about drumbeats at Hambros comes news that RBC Dominion Securities, the Royal Bank of Canada's investment banking arm...

Thin cats

WHILE the debate in Britain about a minimum wage rages on, an advert in the Financial Times proclaims that a Kazakhstani company has premises available and is able to attract workers of different professions and qualifications...

COLIN CAMPBELL



Will Britain's workforce ever stand up and be counted?

Philip Bassett examines the exasperating problem of conflicting employment figures

How many people work in Britain? Even leaving aside the uncountable numbers working in the unofficial economy, the Government does not know.

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday blundered by pre-empting the Government's announcement today of the latest unemployment figures...

In addition to new figures on unemployment, the Central Statistical Office will also publish figures on jobs - the first results from its autumn quarterly Labour Force Survey (LFS)...

But in a barely-noticed move last week, the Government admitted that it has no precise idea of the actual level of employment. In a study published by the CSO, Whitehall officials acknowledged that they are unable to explain an unshrinking gap between its two principal measures of employment...

Does this matter? Well, yes. In terms of knowing about what is going on in both the labour market and the economy more generally, the number of people in productive work is clearly a key factor. Politically, job growth is a key goal: ministers proclaim the growth in jobs as a key indicator of the claimed success of Government policy.

But such claims are harder to substantiate if it isn't clear how many people are in work. The Government's problems about counting employment began in the summer of 1992. Unemployment was still rising, but it was set to start its long, uninterrupted fall from the end of the year until now - give or take a few revisions to the figures.

The Government measures employment and unemployment in two ways.

Just as unemployment is tracked by both the monthly claimant count and the quarterly LFS - the CSO expects by the end of this month to have before it a report recommending the shift to a monthly LFS - so employment is measured by a quarterly survey of the Workforce in Employment (WIE) series and a quarterly survey of individuals at home by way of the LFS.

Some ministers, such as Eric Forth, Employment and Education Minister, who will detail the Government's response to today's unemployment figures, are sceptical about the LFS, especially as a measure of unemployment.

But Labour figures like Michael Meacher, the Shadow Employment Secretary, believe the LFS gets nearer than the claimant count to a real measure of unemployment in Britain today.

During the 1980s, the Government's two measures of employment showed broadly similar trends. But in the summer of 1992, they began to diverge and seemed to start telling different stories. The main graphic shows the developing jobs gap. According to the WIE, there are 25 million people in work. The LFS, however, says there are half a million more in work.

In 1992, employers in the WIE series said that their employee numbers were falling - an idea reinforced by every large-scale business survey and opinion poll. The WIE numbers bumped along the bottom, only starting to pick up when 18 months of falling unemployment started to feed through into job growth. But at the same time, the LFS figures, as the graphic shows, took a much less severe drop and then started to climb earlier and more

sharply. Individuals were claiming to be in work, but employers said they were not.

Such a divergence spells problems for the Government. In terms of a recovery from the recession of the early 1990s, the LFS told the better story. But it is the WIE which is the principal measure of jobs, used for calculating GDP output and in the national accounts.

Michael Portillo, the then Employment Secretary, now at Defence, asked his statisticians to tell him what was causing the jobs gap and how could it be bridged. He was clearly irritated when The Times revealed that the study was likely to prove as much of a problem for ministers than a solution, since it would show that even after taking into account every possible factor, the jobs gap was uncloseable.

With Mr Portillo long gone and the entire Employment Department now scrapped, the Government last week published what it described as a "progress report" on the study. After careful factoring and revisions to the figures, it showed that there still remains what it calls an "unexplained gap" of 500,000 people between the LFS and WIE figures.

Not only is the gap "unexplained", it is now larger than when the problem was first identified and the study commissioned, clearly reflecting job growth but showing equally clearly that the gap shows no sign of going away.

Using government figures, The Times today presents computer analyses of the most recent comparable WIE and LFS job figures. The different bases of the two sets of figures means that their actual numbers will not be the same, but if they are in any way telling consistent stories, the direction

of growth or decline should be broadly in line.

In fact, The Times analysis of the figures over a year to last summer shows that in many cases they are not. The LFS, for instance, shows employment up by 1.2 per cent. WIE figures show a fall of 0.4 per cent. Male employment is rising twice as fast in the LFS than in the WIE, while part-time work is increasing twice as rapidly in the WIE measure compared with the LFS.

LFS employment in the West Midlands is falling, but rising in the north, while the reverse is the case in Scotland. Employment in the East Midlands and Yorkshire is going up twice as quickly in the LFS than in the WIE, and the other way round in the North and East Anglia.

Some trends do tally: both sets of data show broadly similar employment growth in manufacturing and the service sector, for instance, in the South East and Greater London, and among women. But the divergence in details of the two measures confirms the Government's conclusion of an "unexplained gap", and in spite of officials' overall preference for the LFS, there is nothing to suggest that one series is more reliable than the other.

Despite the obituary often poured on their heads, especially over job and jobs figures, Whitehall's statisticians are concerned that the data they supply is as good as it can be, and the unexplained gap is a worry. In an effort to find answers, they are now to talk to their opposite numbers in other countries to try to see if the common practice of two different measures is producing similar conundrums elsewhere.

Whether or not the gap is bridgeable remains to be seen. But its confirmation suggests two inescapable conclusions. Firstly, that in spite of the extensive scrutiny applied to it by way of statistics, the UK labour market remains a complex and protean entity, hard to track and hard to explain.

Secondly, as the on-the-ground experiences of people looking for work and the feelings of job insecurity of those in employment tend to confirm, claims by politicians of any stripe of their ability to create jobs, or of their success in doing so, need to be treated with considerable caution.



Eric Forth: sceptical

Rachel Bridge reports on the long road to Olympic readiness

Sydney starts countdown to 2000

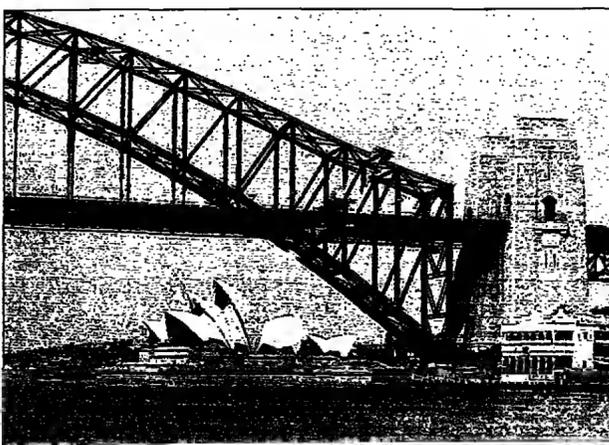
While Atlanta prepares to take the world stage as host of the 1996 Olympic Games, Australia is preparing for its own moment of glory - the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

According to Olympic protocol, this year is the earliest that Australia can begin the hard sell of its Games, and deep in the heart of Sydney's business district a team of five is putting the finishing touches to a marketing plan they hope will bring in more than \$1.8 billion (£864 million) in sponsorship deals and licensing agreements over the next year.

The Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games - SOCOG - has already managed to sell the Australian television rights to the Games for \$45 million to Australia's Channel Seven and the US television rights to NBC for \$715 million, both figures far in excess of what they had budgeted. They have also signed up IBM and Telstra, Australia's telecoms giant, to be key sponsors of the games in a \$100 million deal.

European broadcasting rights are currently the subject of negotiation, with a consortium backed by The News Corporation, parent company of The Times, submitting a bid worth more than \$2 billion for the winter and summer Olympics between 2000 and 2008.

Sydney's challenge for this year is to find a further ten national sponsors from areas



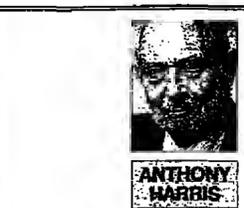
Sydney sights: a picture-postcard view that the Games will help to popularise even more

such as banking and car manufacturing, who are prepared to put up \$5-400 million for the event, the commission expects the interest it generates to help to boost the number of international visitors from the current 3.5 million a year to 6.3 million by 2000, and 7.6 million by 2003.

A spokeswoman says: "We think that the Olympics is going to be a tremendous drawcard. It will be one of the most watched events ever. It's a chance to get into between

three billion and four billion people's homes and show them pictures of Australia."

Tony Thirlwell, chief executive of Tourism New South Wales, says that winning the Olympic bid has already given a huge boost to the lucrative business conference and convention market. "International associations feel confident about choosing Sydney now because it has got the endorsement of the International Olympic Committee."



German wage push causes Eurosclerosis

Why is the German economy so alarmingly weak? Convention blames the Bundesbank (Anatole Kalesky concurring), but is this the whole story? A rising exchange rate is not the only way to undermine competitiveness: excessive wage increases are just as deadly, as we once learned; and that is where Günter Rexrode, the German Economics Minister, puts half the blame. Last year, the German unions secured high settlements, including some multi-year deals which will knock out into 1996 and even 1997. They are also demanding job protection and job creation. Employers look at weak orders, and business surveys show them wringing their hands.

As married readers know, quarrels between partners can be the hardest to resolve. You can't get away from each other, but any would-be peacemaker is liable to get his head bitten off. This is not the first time the German social partners have fallen out, and won't be the last - the congenial weakness of the social market economy. (Or should we now say stakeholder economy?) "Labour market rigidities" were cited to explain most German downturns in the past. But the ERM spread the infection, and led to complications: Germany still choked by excessive costs; but its ERM partners by excessive interest rates. Welcome back to Eurosclerosis.

All this faces the Bundesbank with a sadly familiar dilemma, including one less familiar fact. Domestic conditions demand a squeeze to confront the unions; ERM partners, especially the French, demand easing to help the franc, the budget and the unemployed. (So do the beleaguered hotel keepers of Klosters, but they don't count.) A solution might be to balance the squeeze with a devaluation - a trick the Bank of England finds quite easy. But even if you want to, how do you devalue when you have a sound trade performance, and a currency that more and more Bundesbank officials, and German voters, are saying "Nein". Not to mention the French unemployed.

It will take a new German miracle to adjust to all this without a deep recession. No more glad, confident morning domestic management is a binding headache. All this, and EMU too? No wonder that more and more Bundesbank officials, and German voters, are saying "Nein". Not to mention the French unemployed.

All this might still be shrugged off as an awkward corner in European history if the cause was seen as strictly temporary; a trade union reaction to recent rapid growth, or to the one-off costs of German reunification. But this looks like more wishful thinking. The plain fact is that German unions resist any cut in real wages - which is, after all, their job. Recently, it was solidarity costs; but look ahead, and Tigers, not to mention the rising burden of German pensions, loom ever larger.

It will take a new German miracle to adjust to all this without a deep recession. No more glad, confident morning domestic management is a binding headache. All this, and EMU too? No wonder that more and more Bundesbank officials, and German voters, are saying "Nein". Not to mention the French unemployed.

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BUSINESS LETTERS

Policyholders should not be made to pay for 'sins' of the life offices

From S. L. Smaller Sir, I was concerned to read that payouts under with-profit life and pension policies are being frozen or reduced as compared with similar policies maturing a year ago, despite the substantial increase in equity values over the last 12 months.

The reasons offered for this anomalous situation range from over-declaration in past years to the effect of smoothing results to avoid volatility in payouts.

Bonuses under with-profit policies depend primarily on the returns of the funds in which premiums are invested, of which equities form a substantial component. Policyholders have a right to expect fair returns that broadly reflect the results of such

investments; indeed their reasonable expectations are enshrined in legislation. Equity in bonus declaration is a fundamental principle and smoothing is intended to soften the peaks and troughs of stock market movements and not to invert them.

To expect policies maturing now to pay the cost of excessive distributions in the late 1980s when year-on-year increases sometimes exceeded 20% (so much for smoothing) is inequitable and gives policyholders little confidence in the fairness of bonus distribution.

Yours faithfully S. L. SMALLER "Comandant" The Close Old Billingshurst West Sussex.

Too early to form a view on bid for Forte

From The Viscount Thurso Sir, Your article headlined "Wontners back Forte" (January 11) misrepresents some of my comments to your correspondent.

Mr Reguly asked me if he could quote me as stating the Wontner interests viewed the bid for Forte "positively". I denied this request stating that whilst they were "sympathetic" they could not possibly form a view at this stage since no details had been communi-

cated to any shareholder. The general thrust of my comments was that the views of the Wontner interest and charitable trust remained unchanged, and therefore recent press speculation was inaccurate.

In the light of the above, I trust that you will put the record straight. Yours sincerely, THE VISCOUNT THURSO, Office of The Viscount Thurso, Fitness and Leisure Holdings, New Court, Wigginton, Tring, Hertfordshire.

UNIT TRUST PRICES

Table of unit trust prices for various funds including:
- ASIA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TRUSTS
- GOSWELL UNIT TRUSTS
- FRANKFONTER UNIT TRUSTS
- LONDON & MANCHESTER UNIT TRUSTS
- M&S EQUITY UNIT TRUSTS
- M&S GENERAL INVESTMENT UNIT TRUSTS
- M&S INTERNATIONAL UNIT TRUSTS
- M&S NORTH AMERICAN UNIT TRUSTS
- M&S SOUTH AMERICAN UNIT TRUSTS
- M&S EUROPEAN UNIT TRUSTS
- M&S ASIAN UNIT TRUSTS
- M&S AUSTRALIAN UNIT TRUSTS
- M&S AFRICAN UNIT TRUSTS
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- M&S TELECOM UNIT TRUSTS
- M&S HEALTHCARE UNIT TRUSTS
- M&S FINANCIAL UNIT TRUSTS
- M&S CONSUMER UNIT TRUSTS
- M&S INDUSTRIAL UNIT TRUSTS
- M&S SERVICES UNIT TRUSTS
- M&S UTILITIES UNIT TRUSTS
- M&S REAL ESTATE UNIT TRUSTS
- M&S INFRASTRUCTURE UNIT TRUSTS
- M&S TRANSPORT UNIT TRUSTS
- M&S MEDIA UNIT TRUSTS
- M&S TELECOM UNIT TRUSTS
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- M&S MEDIA UNIT TRUSTS

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- M&S EUROPEAN UNIT TRUSTS
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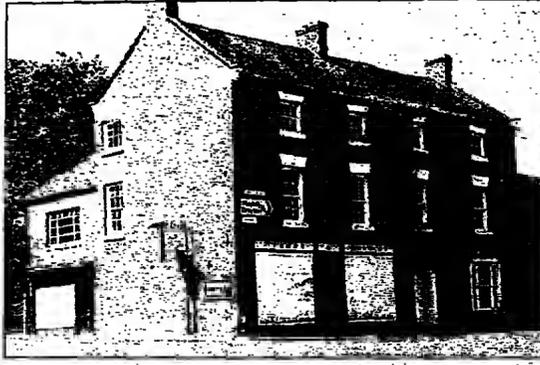
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كسب من الاموال

Rachel Kelly studies the difference between dreams and reality when taking on a listed house in need of repair



Moretons Cottage, Winterborne Whitechurch, Dorset. A late 18th or early 19th-century thatched flint and brick cottage in a poor state with an unstable thatched roof.



Walford House, Drayton Road, Hodnet, Shropshire. The early three-storey 19th-century brick house has a plain tile roof, four sash windows on the first and second floors, a double shopfront on the ground floor, and an adjoining stable and garden.



Monmouth House, Cork Street, Frome, Somerset. This 18th-century town house in Frome's town centre has a pedimented central front door, a tiled mansard roof and one-and-a-half adjoining acres earmarked for development.

Do you really want to stop the rot?

There are few more soothing, sleep-inducing pastimes than imagining how one might restore a romantic ruin to its former glory - dreams of resown lawns and re-rendered walls for that old thatched cottage at the end of the lane. The good life beckons.

Those wishing to convert dreams into reality should peruse One Damned Building After Another, the latest catalogue of historic buildings in urgent need of repair from the conservation group Save Britain's Heritage.

This year's report is the seventh in a series from Save. All chant a familiar litaney: the risks that face more than 100,000 historic buildings.

English Heritage, a quango, estimates that 7 per cent of listed buildings are officially at risk in England, which is some 37,000 buildings. A further 14 per cent, 73,000 buildings, are vulnerable.

Save has selected 130 to feature in its report. Details come largely from the conservation officers in local authorities who have spotted a rotting building and tried to contact its owners, often without success. A would-be buyer would

have to take up the challenge. Councils can serve a repairs notice, then a compulsory purchase order and take ownership of the building. In the past, councils often quailed at the prospect and would rather have the building collapse. "Councils are less scared now," says Jessica Pocock, author of the report. "They know that through our reports they have a number of contacts who have pledged their interest in buying the building on from the council, in what is

known as a 'back-to-back' deal." Some owners have also put their buildings in the catalogue. "Hitherto, these owners had not considered putting the buildings on the market, perhaps considering them worthless except as development sites," Ms Pocock says. Owners who have rural buildings, perhaps on an estate, are realising that they could arrange a long repairing lease with a new buyer, thereby keeping the building in their

ownership while seeing it repaired. Enlightened estate agents and members of the public are also sending cases to Save to include. "Such people are invaluable," Ms Pocock says. "There are still black spots where councils simply do not care or will not help." So should you try to buy a wreck? Dreams should be swiftly swapped for reality, says Emma Phillips, the secretary of Save. The first problem could well be persuading the

owner to sell. "Often these buildings are derelict through the owners' neglect, or are the victims of unscrupulous attempts to get profitable planning permissions for demolition or grants for repair." Getting a realistic valuation may prove tricky if the owner is reluctant about selling. The council could prove your ally, Ms Phillips says. "It could use its powers to serve repairs notices with the threat of compulsory purchase." Those whose fancy is not

From a hall with gargoyles to a home

RICHARD DAJCZAR and his wife Denise bought Leighton Hall, near the market town of Welshpool and 25 miles from Shrewsbury on the border of Shropshire and Powys, in November last year for £190,000. The Grade II* listed hall, its church and estate were built for John Naylor, the High Sheriff and true Victorian tycoon, between 1850 and 1856 at vast cost and on a massive scale.

The hall was built with a view of Powis Castle and abounds with castellations, towers, gargoyles and mullioned windows. The interior was decorated by J.C. Grace to Pugin's designs, now in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. The gardens were set out in 1860 by Edward Kemp, a pupil of Paxton, and ranged from formal to woodland, linked by a series of woods and bridges.

The estate was broken up before the First World War and remained largely unused until the early 1980s when it was briefly used as a school. Since then, although permission was granted for its conversion to offices, museum and arts centre in 1985 and 1994, it has been neglected. Mr Dajczar, a metal broker, and his wife bought the house from a bank which had repossessed the property from a businessman.

Restoration work is in progress. Dry rot has been rectified, roofs repaired, windows mended, and £10,000 spent. Why bother? "I think it's because it's very rewarding to think that you'll leave something after you die," says Mr Dajczar. "We hope the house will still be standing in a few hundred years time."

HE CAUTIONS that although he was offered a 20 per cent grant on emergency repair work, by the time the grant had been applied for and agreed to, the work had to begin if the house was not to collapse altogether. Mr Dajczar says that the experi-

ence will not stop him applying for grants in the future. He hopes to convert the 35-room house into two large family flats, one for him and his wife and the other for his business partner, Graham Meigh. "It is hard work. It's a form of therapy; some people play golf, I restore houses." And the property is bulging with history. "The first American redwoods were planted here." His main advice? "Get two surveys. One will spot problems that the other hasn't."

THE TIMES TRAVEL OFFERS ITALIAN CITY BREAKS A WEEKEND IN FLORENCE 3 NIGHTS FROM JUST £259 DEPARTURES IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH 1996. Stretching along the banks of the River Arno and overlooked by the Tuscan hills, Florence offers a wealth of architecture from the Renaissance period. Visit the Uffizi Gallery and many other museums which display masterpieces by da Vinci, Michelangelo and Botticelli. Alternatively, cross the ancient Ponte Vecchio and explore the most authentic quarter of this city or relax and browse through the many shops and boutiques around the piazzas. Optional excursions take you through the Tuscan countryside and Chianti vineyards to medieval Siena and San Gimignano.

Real estate listings for various areas including BELGRAVIA & KNIGHTSBRIDGE, CHELSEA & KENSINGTON, CITY & WEST END, MAYFAIR, NORTH OF THE THAMES, HAMPTONS, SOUTH KENSINGTON, HOLLAND PARK, ST JOHN'S WOOD, and LONDON PROPERTY. Includes contact information for Daniel Smith Chartered Surveyors and Grimley.

Vertical advertisement for 'DEPOSIT PROBLEM' featuring a house image and text.

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page: 'سكزا من الامم'



VISIONARIES From Emily Dickinson, who wrote 800 pages of unpublished poetry...



VISIONARIES ... to the supreme pessimist Franz Kafka: we survey three millennia of secret geniuses

THE TIMES ARTS



OFFER See Petula Clark play Norma Desmond in Sunset Boulevard at our Theatre Club prices



VISUAL ART A Sheffield gallery exhibits 170 paintings and drawings by a remarkable British recluse

Richard Morrison unearths some of the pioneers, eccentrics and rogues who had 'the vision thing'

Art's secret geniuses, from A to Z

This weekend the BBC is mounting a festival at the Barbican to celebrate Charles Ives, the American composer whose pieces anticipated the wildest innovations of 20th-century music.

Who are the other secret geniuses? Some suffered hardship or persecution; others simply enjoyed bamboozling their contemporaries with their double or even triple lives.

Arcimboldo, Giuseppe. Four centuries before The Sun turned the England football manager into a turnip-head, Arcimboldo was painting human heads made out of vegetables and flowers.

Börlin, Jean. In the daring 1920s, Jean Börlin went furthest. His Swedish Ballet (based in Paris, oddly) was probably responsible for the first black ballet, the first gay ballet, the first Cubist one, the first feminist one, the first Eskimo one and the first about the Brazilian rainforest.

Chénier, André-Marie. Too late - in fact while waiting to be guillotined - the royalist diplomat Chénier discovered the lyrical poetic style that was to inspire generations of French Romantics.

Dickinson, Emily. And on the subject of great neglected poets, here is the supreme example. She lived in one little Massachusetts house all her life; she wrote enough poetry to run to 800 pages in her Collected Works, and saw virtually none published in her lifetime.

Eccles, Solomon. We have no idea how good he was at his first profession, playing the viol and virginals. But after he had ceremonially burnt his instruments on Tower Hill he became England's first zany performance-artist, running naked through the streets during the Great Plague, shouting "the end is nigh", or words to that effect.

Gregorian Chant. For 1,400 years Pope Gregory I's favourite tunes were the best-kept secret of men in cassocks and sandals. Then a record-company executive had a bright idea...

Harington, Sir John. Queen Elizabeth I called him "that saucy poet, my godson", and expelled him from court on several occasions for being a bit too saucy with the satire.

Ingamells, Reginald. Just 24 when he died in 1955, Ingamells nevertheless began a revolution: the Australian literary group he founded, Jindyworobaks.

Jungamells, Reginald. Just 24 when he died in 1955, Ingamells nevertheless began a revolution: the Australian literary group he founded, Jindyworobaks.

Juvenal, Decimus. After a career as a soldier, knocking sense into the Britons, Juvenal produced 16 biting satires on life in decadent 2nd-century Rome.

Kafka, Franz. Like Charles Ives, Kafka spent most of his working life in an insurance office. Unlike Ives, he was desperately unhappy and mostly very ill.

Laclos, Pierre Choderlos de. Only once did this fun-loving French army officer pick up his pen to write a novel. But what a novel!

Mighty Handful. The curious thing about the five great nationalist composers of 19th-century Russia, nicknamed the "Mighty Handful" for *moguchaya kuchka* - it sounds so much better in Russian, was that they all had day-jobs.

Mussorgsky, Modest. An army general; Mussorgsky a part-time civil servant and full-time alcoholic; Balakirev a railway freight agent; and Borodin a chemistry professor.

Neer, Aert van der. It took a long time for Neer's moonlit scenes of Amsterdam canals to be recognised as masterpieces.

O'Connell, Máirtín. An IRA recruiting officer during the 1930s, O'Connell was interned during the war, and then published a stunning novel: *Che na Cille*, a mordant series of monologues and conversations among corpses in a village graveyard.

Pepys, Samuel. A real "secret genius", since his ebullient diaries were written in a code that was not cracked until 160 years after his death.



"To the outside world Charles Ives was an insurance salesman. Only at the end of his life did America wake up to the visionary in its midst"

Quarles, Francis. Essex Man to his lace cuffs, Romford-born Quarles rose through Jacobean society to hold such amazing posts as Cup-Bearer to Princess Elizabeth of Bohemia, and Chronologer to the City of London.

Rouget de Lisle, Claude-Joseph. In 1792 Rouget de Lisle, a young army engineer, overheard the Mayor of Strasbourg expressing regret that his soldiers had no tune to sing as they marched.

Sax, Adolphe. Strange that a 19th-century Belgian inventor should have created the quintessential sound of 20th-century American angst: the saxophone.

Wainwright, Thomas. Early 19th-century London would have been duller without Wainwright, who exhibited his paintings at the Royal Academy but whose prime talents lay in stranger fields.

Xosrovidukt, Classic FM. Has not yet discovered the music of the 8th-century woman composer Xosrovidukt, despite her seminal position in early Armenian hymnography.

Utzon, Jørn. The Dane designed the most beautiful of all 20th-century buildings - the Sydney Opera House - and was then forced to resign at the planning stage by pea-brained officials.

Van Gogh, Vincent. The greatest of all ignored geniuses, and probably the maddest too, though the competition is tough.

Wainwright, Thomas. Early 19th-century London would have been duller without Wainwright, who exhibited his paintings at the Royal Academy but whose prime talents lay in stranger fields.

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Xosrovidukt, Classic FM. Has not yet discovered the music of the 8th-century woman composer Xosrovidukt, despite her seminal position in early Armenian hymnography.

Yun, Isang. Yun was a Second World War hero, jailed by the Japanese but escaping to fight with the Korean resistance. Later, studying music in Europe, he was denounced as a class traitor by his own government.

Zeno of Elea. Finally, here is a splendid chap to have on your side in a pub argument. He lived quietly in an ancient Greek colony, but his superbly infuriating paradoxes - Achilles and the Tortoise, The Flying Arrow, to name but two of his bigger hits - were still tickling the minds of thinkers like Charles Dodgson and Bertrand Russell some 2,300 years later.

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Putting spirit to music

IN THEIR student days, there were probably more letters in their name than there were players. It took the Kammerorchester der Jungen Deutschen Philharmonie seven years to turn professional and slim it down to the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie.

Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie/ Sanderling

notice for an indisposed Jiri Belohlavek, whose influence was clearly felt in the largely Czech programme. Sanderling is a gentle enabler of a conductor, reluctant to impose his personality on the music or give it definition.

The robust temperament and assured direction of Inogen Cooper strengthened the profile of the evening's performance of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 2. The delight of this orchestra lies in the audibility and character of its many individual voices.

Cooper took the work in hand, tuning in to all these voices with grace and mischief. Her first movement cadenza became an ensemble of voices and her second movement was resonant with a relaxed intensity, left hand, right hand and orchestral correspondents bound together in a single singing line.

HILARY FINCH

Death i raises for the

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Book your book

THE TIMES THEATRE CLUB SEE Alan Bennett's perennially popular adaptation of Kenneth Grahame's Wind in the Willows at London's Old Vic, and receive a free hardback copy of Writing Home (Faber & Faber), the wonderfully entertaining collection of Bennett's writings.

AN UNFORGETTABLE TOUR

CLARKE PETERS'S Unforgettable - the Nat King Cole Story hits the road for a 12-week tour. Buy discounted tickets for performances at: BROMLEY Churchill Theatre (Jan 23-25), POOLE Arts Centre (Feb 6, 7), EDINBURGH King's Theatre (Jan 30-Feb 1), INVERNESS Eden Court Theatre (Feb 13, 14).

OTHER SPECIAL OFFERS

LONDON Adelphi Theatre (Jan 15-Mar 27) PETULA CLARK returns to the West End as fading silent screen idol Norma Desmond in Andrew Lloyd Webber's hit musical, Sunset Boulevard. See the show and enjoy a pre or post-theatre dinner at the Opera Terrace in Covent Garden or Bertorelli's in nearby Floral Street for just £35 (the normal ticket price alone is £32.50). COVENTRY Belgrade Theatre (Jan 30-Feb 3) TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £50 to £15) for Whole Lotta Shakin', the story of Jerry Lee Lewis. CANTERBURY Marlowe Theatre (Feb 6) TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £9 to £15) to the spectacular Hot Ice Show.

HOW TO BOOK - AND JOIN

TO BOOK, please phone the listed number during normal office hours. The price printed on the ticket you receive will be the special price negotiated by The Theatre Club. There may be a transaction charge to cover postage. TO JOIN The Theatre Club either send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to The Theatre Club, together with your name, address and telephone number to The Theatre Club, P.O. Box 2164, Colchester CO2 8TL, or telephone 01206 791737 using your credit card. For general inquiries call 0171-387 9673

Fame at last for the quiet man?

John Downton is probably the only important 20th-century artist never to seek recognition. When he died in obscurity in 1991 at the age of 85, even his own family were astonished by his work.

John Downton died in 1991 after a life of painting and writing in solitude. Now we can see his work

School founders was in favour. After being advised not to paint in tempera like the Old Masters, he quit.

Fortunately, his father's success as a businessman and inventor of an underwater telephone cable meant that Downton had no need to earn a living. He was free to choose his own artistic direction, which also came to include writing treatises on philosophy and aesthetics.

Throughout his life, Downton painted in self-imposed exile. He was never an actual recluse, partly because of his passion for music, feelings he dramatised in a depiction in one of his paintings of the hands of a girl conducting. A gifted violinist, he loved to perform.

Downton had been fascinated with drawing since childhood, when he amused himself with his sketchpad during long church sermons. He read art history at Cambridge before going to the Slade, but the sober urban realism of the Euston Road



Profile of a Girl, circa 1972, by John Downton

objector. Yet he was able to paint as he wanted because of the money from his father's inventions. Downton's portraits are mostly of the people he encountered. A restless bachelor, he often moved home, living variously in East Anglia, London and the South East. Downton's Eve is a confident image of a woman of

1939, although his inspiration is a Crivelli Renaissance garden. His portrait of his cousin, Francis Witts, is that of a 15th-century Italian noblewoman with the earphone hairstyle of an Evelyn Waugh heroine. Financial security also meant that Downton was able to visit galleries at leisure far and wide, and he did so at every opportunity. Tempera remained his favourite medium. But however much he was immersed in the past, he had a clarity of expression to rival that of Freud.

Yet Downton put his writing first, although most of it was unpublished, and he died after the strain of rescuing heavy boxes of manuscripts from a flood in his cellar.

The exhibition is a selection of the work he left, all of which is to be bequeathed to the nation's galleries and museums, thanks to his surviving sister, Hilda.

ALISON BECKETT

John Downton, Tempera and Drawings, at the Graves Art Gallery, Sheffield, to February 24; Glen Viot Art Gallery, Swansea, March 23-May 5; Bunside Gallery, London SE1, June 8-23; Plymouth Art Gallery and Museum, August 3-September 14; Harris Art Gallery, Preston, September 23-December 6

سكنا من الأمل



FILM
British director Mike Figgis talks about his rise from Tyneside to Hollywood...



FILM
... and the chances of his latest movie, *Leaving Las Vegas*, sweeping the Oscars

THE TIMES ARTS



OPERA
Strong music, preposterous libretto: that's the verdict on Korngold's *Die tote Stadt*



TOMORROW
Our own opera double-bill: ENO's new studio explored, and the Royal Opera's Tippett on stage

Death in Vegas raises hopes for the Oscars

For a man once rejected by the National Film School, the director Mike Figgis is not doing badly. His latest film, *Leaving Las Vegas*, which opens in Britain this week, has won a clutch of prestigious awards and nominations for Figgis and for his stars, Nicolas Cage and Elisabeth Shue. It was voted best film by the New York and Los Angeles film critics, and other accolades include three awards from the American National Society of Film Critics and four Golden Globe nominations, regarded as indications of likely Academy Awards.

A Geordie made good directing in LA, Mike Figgis discusses his latest film with Carol Allen

Benidorm. It reeks of triple Macburgers and is full of the fattest people I've ever seen, feeding slot machines. Figgis was allowed only three nights filming in the city itself, with most of the shoot being done in Los Angeles. The worthy burghers of Las Vegas, keen on promoting their image as a family resort, didn't like his script, which in a one-line synopsis — an alcoholic goes to Las Vegas to drink himself to death, and falls in love with a prostitute — sounds downbeat and sordid. And yet the effect is of a poetic and sometimes wryly amusing tragedy.

own life, then went back to the bottle once it was finished. He and Figgis never actually met — all negotiations were done through Figgis's friend, Stuart Regen, who first found the project. O'Brien agreed the script, signed the deal and two weeks later, as the film went into pre-production, he committed suicide. "It was as though his particular path had come to an end," says Figgis. One of the elements which is almost dangerously attractive in the main character is his total lack of self-pity. "He's very like a European character, whereas a typical American character these days would be full of remorse, self-awareness or whatever. He's not dissimilar to Albert Finney's character in *The Browning Version*. There's a sort of stoicism about him and I think stoicism is an immensely attractive characteristic. There's something very heroic and brave about it, the idea that you will deal with your own problems and not inflict them on other people."



British director Mike Figgis rehearsing with Elisabeth Shue, who stars with Nicolas Cage in *Leaving Las Vegas*, which opens here this week

JAZZ
Killing them gently
Fourth World
Ronnie Scott's

ALTHOUGH singer Flora Purim warned us that, since Fourth World were just beginning their month-long residency at Ronnie Scott's, they would not reach "killing" form for another week, the band's overall approach is so effortless that such coaxing is simply not an option for them. Even the set-opener, a gentle, swaying duet between percussionist supreme Airo Moreira and guitarist Jose Neto, was surprisingly taut, and by the time the whole band was assembled with the arrival on stage of electric bassist Gary Brown and keyboard player Jovino Santos, they were immediately into their stride, dispensing their trademark mixture of jazz improvisation and Brazilian rhythm.

POP
When a man loves...
Percy Sledge
Jazz Café, NW1

THE enduring emotional impact of his one Top 30 British hit — *When a Man Loves a Woman* reached No 4 on initial release in 1966, No 2 when reissued 21 years later — has ensured Percy Sledge of a place in the collective consciousness, despite a low and at times almost horizontal profile. His version of the classic soul song has surfaced repeatedly on film soundtracks (*The Big Chill* and *The Crying Game* among them), provided the title for Andy Garcia and Meg Ryan's screen romance and has rarely been off the airwaves.

companies in the intervening years. But recently the Paris-based Sky Ranch label financed what became, effectively, a comeback LP, *Blue Night*, released here by Virgin to enthusiastic reviews and itself nominated for a Grammy at next month's Los Angeles ceremony in the Best Contemporary Blues Album category.

The resurgence of interest in Sledge led to this, the first of six consecutive Camden appearances — he plays the Jazz Café until Saturday — in which the 55-year-old singer revealed himself to be as sweet-voiced as ever. Immaculate in tuxedo and patent shoes, his ringed fingers sweeping the air as he delivered one supplicating lyric after another, Sledge interspersed material from that new album (*You Got Away With Love* and *Love Come Knockin'*) with lesser-known items from his own back catalogue (*Warm and Tender Love*, *At the Dark End of the Street*, *Take Time To Know Her*) in a way that showed how consistent has been his taste and style throughout a 30-year career. His fondness for tributes to his late peers — David Ruffin and Eddie Kendricks, of the Temptations, and Wilson Pickett — may have steered the set a little too close to human jukebox territory at times, but cabaret versions of long-familiar songs are rarely this lovingly performed. As for *When a Man Loves a Woman*... it provoked spontaneous dancing among the audience.

ALAN JACKSON

British explorers discover lost city

PREMIERED simultaneously in Hamburg and Cologne in 1920, repeated soon after in Vienna and at the New York Met, Erich Wolfgang Korngold's *Die tote Stadt* has made sporadic appearances in European and American opera houses ever since. In Britain, however, it has had to wait until now for its first performance.

Opera
Die tote Stadt
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Symbolist novel and set in dank, decaying Bruges, the "dead city" of the title. Given an atmospheric staging, this tale of a bereaved Belgian's mental turmoil might make a powerful impression. But in concert, without benefit of scenic diversion, the performers have their work cut out.

have done more to help his soloists. The two principal roles are impossibly taxing at the best of times — that and a couple of seductive arias is why they have attracted great singers. With no pit to accommodate the vast instrumental forces, balance is a serious problem.

PETER GALLAGHER
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CHOICE 1

Oscar Wilde's An Ideal Husband comes to the West End

VENUE: Opens tonight, Theatre Royal, Haymarket

CHOICE 2

Trevor Pinnock plays Baroque music with his English Concert

VENUE: St John's, Smith Square, tonight

THE TIMES ARTS

CHOICE 3

In Cardiff, Carlo Rizzi conducts a night of Berlioz

VENUE: Tonight at St David's Hall

THEATRE

Short of bodies and short of intensity: a touring Macbeth fails to hold the attention

LONDON

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Opening night for Wilde's drama of marital deceit and scandal. Peter Hall directs the revival of his 1992 production, with a star cast including Martin Shaw, Anna Carter and Patsy Byrne.

Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 0JL (01-430 8000). Tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; Wed and Sat, 3pm. Until Apr 20.

WHAT'S ON AT THE BARBICAN First night of processes for the City of London's 10th anniversary. A series of events, including a play, a concert, a lecture and a film, will be held in the building's new auditorium, set in a slaughterhouse. Ron Daniels directs Wallace the excellent American poet and playwright, led her One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest. Later tonight, Benjamin Zander returns to the Barbican with his Orchestra for a performance of Mahler's Symphony No 9. The 1955 Mahler concert was acclaimed in superlatives and tonight is accompanied by a 45pm talk with the conductor (see the back page).

Barbican, Silk Street, EC2A 3DF (01-733 8911). City Processions, tonight-Jan 24, 7.15pm. Opens Jan 25, 7pm in rep. Patrons, 50m.

THE ENGLISH CONCERT Period instrument specialists Trevor Pinnock and company make their first London appearance of the year with highlights of concert of Handel, Vivaldi and Bach.

BIJERMANIA Musical revue based on the works of John Baym. Revised version of the 1970s show by David Bonaduce and John Gould King's Head, Upper Street, N1 0JL (01-725 1918). Tue-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 3pm.

COMPANY Adrian Lester, Sheila Gish, Sophie Thompson in an excellent staging of Southern's bitter-sweet musical on marriage, sex and control. Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (01-738 1722). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Wed and Sat, 3pm.

THE DUCHESS OF MALI Cheeky by Jew's often bewitching production of an already convincing play by the deluged playwright. Victoria Palace, Victoria Street, SW1 (01-734 1317). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Wed and Sat, 3pm.

LONDON INTERNATIONAL MIMIC FESTIVAL The highs and lows of the stage with a monster cast. Eric Conlay bats out the songs enjoyably and Sally Ann Triplett is an impressive Fly. Victoria Palace, Victoria Street, SW1 (01-734 1317). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Wed and Sat, 3pm.

RUPERT STREET LONELY HEARTS CLUB English Touring Theatre's production of Jonathan Harvey's thoughtful and passionate play set in an east London bar where most of the characters have low IQ. Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, SW1 (01-733 4488). Tue-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 7pm, Mon, 4.45pm, Wed and Sat, 3pm.

DEVIL IN A BLUE DRESS (15) Scandalous, smoky, thriller with David Washington as the ordinary Joe in late 1940s Los Angeles starring over-the-top police and detective. Directed by Carl Franklin from Walter Mosley's novel. Curzon West End (01-730 1722). Ritz (01-737 2121).

THE RUN OF THE COUNTRY (15) Widowed father and son tussle over life and love. Faded, rich, bawdy with Albert Finney and Sami Gayle. MGM Tottenham Court Road (01-733 6140). Odeon Haymarket (01-430 5123). Kensington (01-235 6140). Swiss Cottage (01-430 5140).

SHOWGIRLS (18) Las Vegas strip club success is not everything. Hedonistic tale of hollow success, directed by director Paul Verhoeven. With Elizabeth Berkley, Kyle MacLachlan. Exhibits: Baker Street (01-735 9772). Odeon Kensington (01-430 5140). Marble Arch (01-430 5140). West End (01-430 5140). UCI Whiteley (01-732 3332).

THE WAR (12) The children of a Vietnam vet (Kevin Spacey) find their own war with prejudice. From Fred Green. Piccadilly (01-733 437). MGM Fulham Road (01-730 2636). UCI Whiteley (01-732 3332).

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

ELSEWHERE

CARDIFF Mezzo-soprano Katana Kankas, Cardiff Singer of the World 1995, goes to Cardiff and the Orchestra of Welsh National Opera tonight for an all-Berlioz programme. Le Carnaval romain, Les Nuits de la Voix, and Symphonie Fantastique. St David's Hall, The Hayes (01-222 0244), 7.30pm.

GLASGOW Take three men and 87 minutes and set back to watch the sparks fly as the RSC's Shakespeare Company comes through The Complete Works of Shakespeare (abridged). There is also the madcap Complete History of America on Friday and Saturday - 500 years in 6000 seconds. Town, Tronquair (01-452 4267). Tonight, Sat, 8pm, Wed and Thurs, 2pm.

ST JOHN'S, SMITH SQUARE, SW1 (01-732 1061). Tonight, 7.30pm. Agan Fri in Birmingham, Symphony Hall (01-213 3333). Sat, Cambridge, Music Exchange (01-223 357861).

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only
Some seats available
Seats at all prices

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Oscar Wilde's drama of marital deceit and scandal. Peter Hall directs the revival of his 1992 production, with a star cast including Martin Shaw, Anna Carter and Patsy Byrne.

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GUILDFORD

Benny England's acclaimed and outspoken take of conflict, in regional loyalty in 1880s India. Confront Unbecoming, returns to the stage. John Adams directs Diana Quirk and Gerard Harper, at the start of a new production.

Yvonne Arnaud, Mithras (01-483 4400). Mon-Thurs, 7.45pm; Fri and Sat, 8pm; Wed, Thurs and Sat, 3pm.

MANCHESTER The BBC Philharmonic offers a virtuoso treat, with another in its series of free Proms. Today's programme is Antonian's Trumpets Concerto and Smetana's Symphony No 5.

Town Hall, Albert Square (01-613 6341). 12.45pm.

LONDON GALLERIES

Accademia Italiana Go Pomodoro sculptures (prints only, final day) (01-733 1033). British Museum, 6th and 7th floors (01-733 1555).

Hayward Art and Power Europe (under the octopus, 1984-5) (01-732 3144).

National Gallery Paintings from National Trust Houses (01-734 7472).

National Portrait Gallery Lure of the Lullaby (01-730 0055).

Royal Academy David Hockney: Drawings (01-734 4327).

Tate Colin Self, The Art of War (1938-45) (01-733 9000). V & A, Jan Art (01-733 8200). Whitechapel, Enfilade (01-732 7888).

SALTIMBANCO Admired by such as Robin Williams, Ed Clark and Madonna, the Montreal-based Cirque du Soleil boasts 45 performers (acrobats, dancers, acrobats), brilliant costumes, no music.

Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (01-733 8213). Tonight-Sun, 7.45pm; Fri, Sat and Sun, 2.30pm.

WIND IN THE WILLOWS Jeremy Sinden plays the situation found in the now annual return of the National Theatre production. See page 14.

Old Vic, Wellington Road, SE1 (01-732 8656). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

LONG RUNNERS

Buddy Strand (01-730 8800).

Cats New (01-730 0072).

Dear God Apollo (01-734 5271).

Les Miserables (01-733 1460).

Palace (01-734 0000).

Oliver (01-733 1460).

Starlight Express (01-733 1460).

The Woman in Black (01-733 1460).

Tipex (01-733 1460).

RUPERT STREET LONELY HEARTS CLUB English Touring Theatre's production of Jonathan Harvey's thoughtful and passionate play set in an east London bar where most of the characters have low IQ. Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, SW1 (01-733 4488). Tue-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 7pm, Mon, 4.45pm, Wed and Sat, 3pm.

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THEATRE: A Macbeth neither here nor there; and an exhilarating mime adventure

Everything but the atmosphere

Macbeth Lyric, W6

James Agate claimed to have used half a column trying and failing to explain why Edna Best was a bad Cinderella, only to hear that a fellow actress had summed up the problem very briefly: "She didn't want to go to the ball." Perhaps something of the sort is the trouble with Paul Higgins, in many other ways an excellent Macbeth. He never seems to want Scotland very much.

The Macbeth that Stephen Unwin has directed for English Touring Theatre is a lot clearer and more solid than several productions that have recently appeared with the same title. Anyone who has seen Mark Rylance mooching about a Hare Krishna Scotland in saffron robes will welcome the Tudor costumes and general sense and sanity. The two interlinked problems are a lack of bodies and a lack of intensity.

The first of these results in a skimpy battle, a banquet that is perilously close to resembling the sort of intimate, uncouth dinner party we get in Ayckbourn's plays, a sleepwalking scene that becomes a quick-fire monologue sans watching doctor and gentleman, and most troubling of all, no visible witches, no cauldron, and nary a glimpse of eye of newt and toe of frog.

Even that need not matter. A sense of horror could be created simply by spectral sounds filling the theatre and a look of terror on the faces of Banquo and Macbeth, who here are the only characters to see any witches. As it is, the off-stage voices, the wistful music and the scudding-cloud backcloth do not generate a scary atmosphere. And the



If the costume fits: Paul Higgins as a reluctant Macbeth with Hilary Lyon, a schoolmarmish Lady Macbeth

actors tend only to stare at row L in a puzzled way, as if they have spotted a member of the audience wearing a conical hat and waving a broomstick. Higgins brings too little ambition, urgency and need to his early speeches, making it hard to understand why he should want to murder Duncan, especially as David Allister plays the old boy as a spluttering TV comic, likely to save him the trouble of murder by expiring in bed. Where he scores, and scores strongly, is in communicating class-science and unease.

This is Macbeth the honourable soldier twisted out of true. Higgins's performance explains why everybody trusts him, and why his wife accuses him of lacking with human kindness. He makes a most unwilling regicide, one who has to kill half of what's best in himself in order to commit murder, and then finds himself doomed to kill the other half in order to stay alive. It is a perfectly valid reading, sanctioned by no less an actor than David Garrick and played with a fine mix of pain and grief by Higgins.

But Garrick had Mrs Pritchard's awesomely dominating Lady Macbeth to push him into murder, and Higgins has Hilary Lyon, a starch-looking beanpole who is no worse than schoolmarmish. There is no sexual frisson between them and not much power-politicking either. When she reproves Macbeth after the murder - "a foolish thought, to say a sorry sight" - it is as if she is giving him a D-grade in English. She also displays showing symptoms of collapse far too long to make the sleepwalking scene: espe-

dially a shortened one, seem plausible. While I'm in the cavilling mood, why does Old Seward rejoice in his son's frontal wounds when we've seen his back sliced open? Why a Glasgow Macbeth, an Escher Macduff, a Dublin Porter and a Leeds murderer? I cannot answer that; just sum up by saying that, although Macbeths occasionally come better, they are usually a lot worse.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

From Hackney to the Wild West

Two planks and a passion, they say, is all the actor needs to put on a show, and while these furnishings would be overly minimalist there is not a great deal more on stage during this spirited 70 minutes from the Rejects Revue Theatre Company. They are a touring team, sponsored by Micholob, and their contribution to the Mime Festival is a deliciously inventive tale of mid-Victorian derring-do that takes us from the Hackney Marshes to an Egyptian tomb, tracks down a wicked uncle to his hideaway in the Wild West, and reaches its climax on top of a train near Thames Ditton where the three combatants battle it out along the roofs of the Euston-Dover Express.

There are only three performers: Ann Farrar, who plays most of the women and a few men, and David Wilson and Tim Hibberd, who play the remainder of the men and all the other women. Between them they also play bats, birds, venomous snakes, crabs,

inside her cold and steal away through the bats. Farrar's chief role is the spunky Florence, resourceful, never at a loss for a cheerful smile, never averse to picking up some creepy-crawly object, comment upon its iridescent underparts and crush it beneath her foot. Her true but tormented love is Gordon Whelks, amateur Egyptologist but sadly from a lower social class. The lofty Hibberd has the bony, urgent look of a self-educated grocer, someone likely to battle against the odds in an H.G. Wells novel.

Cravily thwarting their hopes of union is Florence's brother Clive, dashing, handsome, but should you trust a chap who can transform his face into the lineaments of a contemptuous camel? With just a pair of folding screens to left and right of two capacious boxes, and using only a few wigs, vast poke-bonnet and a pearl as big as (and played by) a ping-pong ball, the three performers - directed by Ben Mason - give as splendid a display of physical theatre as you could hope to see. Speeding between roles, spoofing the conventions of high adventure, teasing expectations and turning hands, limbs and the whole agile body into the moving shapes of other things, small wonder they won a Fringe First at last year's Edinburgh. At the end I shouted "Hoorah!" Twice. I cannot remember when last I felt like doing that.

JEREMY KINGSTON

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Required for City Based Facilities/Project Management Company. We are a young, dynamic company with a first class client base. You are 25+ possess a confident attitude and excellent communication skills. Drive to become a key member of the team and self motivation to work on own initiative in a fast moving environment will ensure a high degree of satisfaction. Accurate typing in Word 6 is essential and a working knowledge of SAGE Accounting an advantage along with setting up office systems leading to BS.5750/BS.5002 accreditation.

Please fax CV with handwritten covering letter to Martin Henderson on 0171 354 8080.

POISED PA £20K
100/60 + good interpersonal skills sought for this 9-5 traditional PA/Sec role. Charming senior W.I. director, 50% admin + contact with the Establishment, Sun ASP. Mainstream Rec Cons
0171 495 1830

NO CLEVER GIMMICKS - JUST GOOD JOBS!

TEAM SECRETARY
International Insurance (City) £15,000 + Benefits
This top insurance company is looking for a bright, young team secretary to offer secretarial support to three directors and their team. The duties will include producing slips, typing general correspondence, keeping diaries and co-ordinating visitors' itineraries. If you have two years secretarial experience, 50wpm typing, with ideally 80wpm shorthand (not essential) and have some knowledge of Word for Windows, Excel and Powerpoint - call now.

MAJOR MERCHANT BANK
Secretary £18,000 + Impressive Benefits and Paid OT
Are you a professional, punctual and flexible secretary who wants to work for three busy professionals who will keep you fully involved? We have an Executive Director, an Associate and an Analyst who are in desperate need of secretarial support. Ideally, we are looking for a banking or legal secretary, with a steady CV who is flexible regarding overtime. Minimum requirements are a good standard of education and an interest in the Banking world.

PAN EUROPEAN RECRUITMENT
0171-734 8484
Fax: 0171 734 8501

PA/ SECRETARY
Managing Director of a busy, private Property and building company requires a confident, well organised secretary. Must be able to work as part of the team and under pressure. Please send CV, stating current salary, to:
Romulus Construction Ltd
Sunford House,
10 Maynard Close
Kings Road
London SW6 2DB.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Busy Travel Association requires a high calibre mature individual to provide efficient secretarial and administrative services to the Chief Executive.
The present incumbent is retiring after 20 years. The role includes servicing meetings and drafting minutes, as well as having responsibility for the work carried out by other secretaries in the office.
Candidates must have excellent administrative, secretarial and personal skills, possess an articulate and confident telephone manner, be able to work on own initiative and have lots of common sense. W/W B skills essential, although this is only a part of this interesting position.

TEAM SECRETARY
We also require a full time Secretary, working at all levels. Excellent secretarial skills, including shorthand, W/W/B and database experience.

Members are a small team, working together to support our members in their efforts to improve business at home and overseas. Salaries according to age and experience. Please write, marked confidential, with your CV, stating which position to:
Administration Manager,
British Water
1 Queen Anne's Gate
London SW1H 9BT

CALLING ALL SECOND JOBBERS WHO WANT TO EARN UP TO 18K

Do you want to work in a friendly, social environment that is interesting and varied?
What about career opportunities??
Why not earn enough money to enjoy a good social life??
We have all the answers (and plenty of interesting jobs) so if you have good secretarial skills and some experience please call Monique, Emma and Portia.

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TEMPS! TEMPS! TEMPS!
Immediate temporary assignments at highly competitive rates for professional secretaries with 100wpm shorthand, 60wpm typing and good working knowledge of Windows-based packages. Preferred age 20-30.

Please call us on
0171-734 8484
Fax: 0171 734 8501

MAF
Mission Aviation Fellowship UK
PA/SECRETARY TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Mission Aviation Fellowship uses aircraft to help to meet the physical and spiritual needs of some of the most needy people in the world.
The successful candidate will provide full secretarial support to the Chief Executive prepare internal and external correspondence and reports; manage the Chief Executive's diary; and organise senior management and board meetings. The ability to take initiative, prioritise tasks and perform under pressure is essential.
Applicants must have experience at a senior level, with excellent keyboard, shorthand and confident telephone skills. They must also have a working knowledge of spreadsheets and graphics packages.
A firm Christian belief, consistent with MAF's basis of faith is essential. An interest in world affairs would be advantageous. For more information and application form, please contact Personnel Department, MAF UK, Ingles Manor, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2TN. Tel: (01303) 850920. The closing date for normal applications is 1 February 1996. Mission Aviation Fellowship - helping to spread physical and spiritual care to needy people in remote places. Registered Charity Number 234878.

£20,000 + benefits PA to PR Chief Exec

Five years experience and still on the up? Dynamic, high profile CEO needs your professional and proactive organisational skills. This is an exciting one to one role where your initiative and ability to communicate will be used daily while working under pressure. Diary, travel, training programmes and recruitment arrangements exceed typing content through computer literacy and shorthand/fin speedwriting is required. Smart presentation is a must! Age 25+.

Contact Amanda Johnson
38, South Molton Street, W1Y 1EA
Tel: 0171 495 8668 or Fax: 0171 499 8344.

TEMP TO PERM - TEAM SEC
£17,000 Banking Benefits

A bright and capable secretary is needed to work for a busy team of analysts. Starting end of Jan. Good skills and flexible attitude are essential.

Call Kim St. John on 0171 588 8999

Aldrich & Co Limited
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

SECRETARIAL COLLEGE LEAVER
£13,500 + BENS

Ideally educated to A Level and looking for a challenging First Job. Our client is a very well known international financial institution and their marketing team need a secretary to help them out!

Call Sarah Turnbull on 0171 588 8999

Aldrich & Co Limited
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PA to 2 ENTREPRENEURS
to £22,000

A totally involved admin / secretarial position working as right hand to 2 dynamic entrepreneurs. Needs a confident, outgoing team player. Relaxed but totally professional environment.

Call Sarah Turnbull on 0171 588 8999

Aldrich & Co Limited
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Partner's PA (Putney)
18k+ per annum

Would you like to spend less time travelling to work and still earn good money? If so, we offer interesting work in spacious modern offices adjacent to East Putney tube and close to Putney BR Station.

CAPSTICKS is a modern law firm rated by the Legal 500 as the best in London in its field of medical negligence. We employ over a hundred people and offer excellent working conditions in a friendly environment.

We are looking for an experienced personal assistant for one of our managing partners. Your job would be to organise and follow up the flow of work, take minutes of meetings and, in time, develop a marketing and communication programme. Ideally you should have a degree, shorthand, word processing and good drafting and organisational skills. Preferred age range is 28 to 40.

We offer an attractive salary package, regular reviews and a bonus scheme.

Please write with full CV, stating current salary, to Mrs S. Laundry,
CAPSTICKS Solicitors
77-83 Upper Richmond Road, London SW15 2TT.
Tel: 0181-780 2211 Fax: 0181-780 1141

SH/ ADMIN £23.5K

An outstanding financial or legal SH/Sec is sought by Senior Partner of major Instl City Co. Considerable admin + liaison with M & A clients. Contractual PRP, paid OT + exc. bens.

Mainstream Rec Cons
0171 495 1830.

A NEW ROLE FOR A NEW YEAR
£20K plus bonus

A dynamic team of highly successful Stockbrokers have created an exciting opportunity for a person with excellent secretarial and administrative skills to carve a niche for themselves. You will be charming, reliable, discreet and highly motivated. Ideally you will have worked in corporate finance or a similar city environment for at least 2 years. You will ideally have A-levels, 65 wpm typing and 80 wpm shorthand and be ready for a new challenge. Please call

0171-814 0800
Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer. All applicants are positively welcomed.

Angela Mortimer

JOIN A WINNING TEAM IN 1996
£18K plus package

The world's leading Management Consultants need a first class PA to work with a high flying individual in a rapidly expanding area of their business.

You will be a highly motivated self-starter, willing to work long hours under pressured conditions. You will be a good communicator with proven secretarial and administrative skills and have worked at senior level for at least 3 years. Ideally you will be educated to A-level standard with shorthand and fast accurate typing. Can you afford not to call us?

0171-814 0800
Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer. All applicants are positively welcomed.

Angela Mortimer

PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR, ACTIONAID

An exceptional opportunity has arisen for a highly skilled and experienced PA to work with the Director of this major overseas development charity. Based in ACTIONAID'S Head Office in Archway, London, you will provide executive level support and will be the key contact between the Director and the charity's Trustees, Corporate Directors, staff and supporters.

This is an extremely challenging and demanding role which not only requires at least three years' relevant experience at a senior secretarial level but also commitment and dedication. You must also possess excellent organisational and communication skills and be used to working within a pressurised environment. The ability to work independently using initiative, judgement and discretion is essential.

An interest in overseas development issues would be useful. Starting salary £16,830 to £17,204, rising to £18,700. For application pack please send large SAE (50p) to Cathy Gearling, Personal Assistant, ACTIONAID, Chalway House, Leach Road, Chard, Somerset TA20 1FA, quoting ref. G328. Closing date: 2 February 1996. Interviews: w/e 12 February 1996. We aim to be an equal opportunities employer.

ACTIONAID
ACTIONAID is a registered charity no. 274667

SENIOR SECRETARY/ ADMINISTRATOR
LONDON SW1
£17K + benefits

Required for company specialising in financial protection for the travel industry. The ideal candidate has several years' secretarial experience (Word 6 for Windows), and is now looking for a job with more scope and responsibility. Would suit someone aged 28+ with a friendly, efficient manner, who can work on their own initiative as part of a small friendly team. Experience of travel industry desirable but not essential.

Send full curriculum vitae and handwritten covering letter to Hilary Allan, 2nd Floor, 23 St. James's Square SW1Y 4JH.

DIRECTORS' PA

Expanding City public relations firm seeks a directors' PA. Candidates must be bright and enthusiastic with good secretarial skills. Experience of Word Perfect 6.1 is essential. Salary is negotiable.

Please apply in writing only, enclosing full CV and current salary details to:
Vicks Young, Texas Communications Group Ltd,
20 Coleman Street, London, EC2R 5AN.
Fax: 0171 4841 1365
NO AGENCIES

Secretary £15,000 neg + Exc. travel bens.
Young secretary required for Chairman's office of prestigious top W1 company. Must be well spoken and presented with good typing and Windows experience.

Receptionist in Advertising £12,000 + bens
Confident receptionist with ability to act on initiative required for this fast growing advertising agency. Some typing on Amipro.

Call our: 0171 499 8992 (Emp agy).

ACTIONAID works in 20 of the world's poorest countries to alleviate poverty and secure lasting improvements in the quality of people's lives.

Personal Assistant to the Director, ACTIONAID

An exceptional opportunity has arisen for a highly skilled and experienced PA to work with the Director of this major overseas development charity. Based in ACTIONAID'S Head Office in Archway, London, you will provide executive level support and will be the key contact between the Director and the charity's Trustees, Corporate Directors, staff and supporters.

This is an extremely challenging and demanding role which not only requires at least three years' relevant experience at a senior secretarial level but also commitment and dedication. You must also possess excellent organisational and communication skills and be used to working within a pressurised environment. The ability to work independently using initiative, judgement and discretion is essential.

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ACTIONAID is a registered charity no. 274667

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FAX:
0171 481 9313

TRAINING CO-ORDINATOR
£17,000 - £19,000

Fulham based sales and marketing training organisation need a first class secretary/co-ordinator with excellent presentation skills on Windows. Manage courses, meet and greet delegates, hotel liaison and own project work. Suitably confident, enthusiastic team player. Please telephone 0171 495 2321.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

SPORTS MARKETING
£25,000+

The Chief Executive of this global media group seeks a true PA who can operate two steps ahead of his hectic schedule. You must be prepared to work long hours in an extremely fast paced and demanding environment. A team player with effective organisational abilities is essential. Top secretarial skills required. Please telephone 0171 495 2321.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PA TO ENTREPRENEUR
£25,000

Commitment, confidentiality and the ability to juggle several different projects at once are all essential skills in order to become the right hand person of this highly successful individual. In return you will enjoy a role with lots of involvement and responsibility. 80wpm shorthand and 55wpm typing essential. Please telephone 0171 495 2321.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

FINANCIAL CAREER
£25,000 PACKAGE

This is one of several top banking support positions we have with our valued City clients. You will assist a small team of executives in a pressurised but friendly environment. Legal or accounting experience would be an asset for involvement with projects. Solid systems and linguistic skills will also be utilised. Excellent prospects. Skills 55wpm typing, MS Word, Excel, Freelance Graphics. Please telephone 0171 628 9529.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

POISED FOR POWER
£21,000

The Chief Executive's PA liaises with Chairman of banks, members of parliament and the general public - the ideal niche for a confident communicator. This supporting role offers involvement to those who want to stretch past the purely secretarial role. Skills 80/60, A+ levels. Age 25-40. Please telephone 0171 628 9529.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

to CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF MULTI-NATIONAL COMPANY in ACCRA (GHANA)

A competent graduate Executive Assistant, with a high level of initiative, is sought by the Chief Executive of a major multi-national company, based in Accra, Ghana. Ability to manage the Chief Executive's office is a must, as well as experience in dealing with people at all levels. First-class secretarial skills are essential. A working knowledge of French is preferred and a minimum of ten years relevant working experience is required.

□ This post would suit expatriate Ghanaians wishing to return home.

□ A generous salary and benefits package will reflect the seniority of this appointment.

Applications which do not meet the above requirements will not be acknowledged.

Please write with full details to Ref: M.302
D.W.J. Advertising Ltd.
104-110 Goswell Road, London EC1V 7DH

YOU ARE IN DEMAND

Do you have over 12 months secretarial experience? Do you want to earn in excess of £17K?

Here are some of the positions we are currently handling:

- Personal Administration in Investment Bank
- DTP Secretary in Management Consultants
- PA/Office Manager for Entrepreneur
- PA in Advertising Holding Company

If you are interested in any of the above positions then please call us quoting ref 61 on:

0171 814 0800

Angela Mortimer

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Stop commuting in return for top terms. Fin & Prop Firm. Co. Needs top prop man/sec. Must be fit, M/S, have S/H. Testable 70 wpm typing, accuracy & comp. lit. & program. background preferable. A level & small car exp. CV & handwritten letter confirming above, plus, to Box No 2713

RECRUITMENT COMPANY
5 GARRICK STREET WC2E 9AA

£24,000 + Benefits

Work in Intelligence
PA to Chairman
High Profile Position

More to see of the world's leading providers of financial intelligence. This is a unique role for a highly motivated and professional individual. The role involves a high level of discretion and confidentiality. Skills: 80wpm typing, MS Word, Excel, Freelance Graphics. Please telephone 0171 628 9529.

ROC Recruitment

£17,000 + Banking Bens

Second Jobber Team Secretary Leading Global Bank

Second Jobber Team Secretary, Leading Global Bank. The role involves a high level of discretion and confidentiality. Skills: 80wpm typing, MS Word, Excel, Freelance Graphics. Please telephone 0171 628 9529.

ROC Recruitment

£25,000 + Banking Bens

Use Your French
PA to MD
Upmarket Stockbrokers

Professional, smart senior secretary with relevant experience and shorthand required to work closely with MD of Corporate Finance Division. Ensure smooth and efficient running of his office. Coordinate department and manage administration. Speak and write French essential.

City Office, 45 South Molton Street, London W1J 8ED
Phone: 0171 256 9440 Fax: 0171 256 9444

ROC Recruitment

£18,000 Base + £25,000 Package

Challenging Opportunity
Senior Admin Assistant
Leading Merchant Bank

Senior Admin Assistant, Leading Merchant Bank. The role involves a high level of discretion and confidentiality. Skills: 80wpm typing, MS Word, Excel, Freelance Graphics. Please telephone 0171 628 9529.

ROC Recruitment

To £22,000 O/T & Bonus

As PA to a senior partner of this prestigious US law firm, you will be providing full secretarial support to your boss and an associate lawyer. This will involve using your diplomatic skills in screening your boss's calls, dealing with demanding clients, holding with overseas offices, arranging travel & expenses, as well as producing lengthy documents using WP 5.1. You will be an outgoing, confident person with a positive interest in arranging internal social activities. Skills: 70wpm.

RECRUITMENT COMPANY
5 GARRICK STREET WC2E 9AA

SECRETARY Economic Analysis
£18,500 + Banking Ben

required for prestigious West End financial institution. Primary support for two busy analysts preparing reports, presentations & correspondence. In addition, you will be looking after & arranging meetings, organising travel & managing expenses. Many senior people with whom you will be interacting, will not have English as their Mother-Tongue, experience in a similar environment preferred. Would suit if you have financial/city exp. and perform well in a fast & demanding environment. Skills: 60wpm, W4W.

RECRUITMENT COMPANY
5 GARRICK STREET WC2E 9AA

PLAIN SAILING

International Yachting Company in W1 specialising in luxury yacht charter & brokerage has 3 vacancies.

Secretary/Receptionist - Enthusiastic, willing & flexible 2nd jobber for busy charter department.

Personal Assistant - Varied exciting role in Charter Management Office. Knowledge of yachts & spoken French both assets.

Marketing Assistant - Help with co-ordination & production of communication programmes & events. Knowledge of desktop publishing a must.

Applicants should be well spoken, of smart appearance & have sound secretarial & administrative skills.

Salary range £11-15,000 neg
CV & handwritten letter to Box No 2853 (No agencies).

£21,000 + Good Package

No Two Days The Same
PA to Chairman
International Headquarters

Flamboyant, brilliant sales minded, organised multi-millionaire chairman of true market leader needs an experienced PA with good shorthand to assist and protect him. Very busy and responsible position organising his life and the company. Loss of client liaison and internal management. Must be well person with a strong character and able to accept delegation.

City Office, 45 South Molton Street, London W1J 8ED
Phone: 0171 499 9658 Fax: 0171 499 9662

ROC Recruitment

£16,000 + Banking Bens

Take Control
City Receptionist
Excellent Package

Receptionist, City Receptionist, Excellent Package. The role involves a high level of discretion and confidentiality. Skills: 80wpm typing, MS Word, Excel, Freelance Graphics. Please telephone 0171 628 9529.

ROC Recruitment

New Year's Resolution

New Year is a great time for change and 1996 is looking like a bumper year for us. We have many temporary jobs on offer in the City and West End and urgently need receptionists, secretaries/PAs with 50wpm and two of the following:

- Word for Windows 6
- Word on Application
- Powerpoint
- Freelance
- WordPerfect Dos/Windows
- Excel/Lotus

If you have at least 2 years' experience and an enthusiastic and adaptable approach, we will pay you up to £10/hour, give free cross-training and provide a friendly and honest service.

West End: Ask for Lisa, Liz or Holly on 0171 437 9932
City: Ask for Kim or Victoria on 0171 377 9919

HOBSTONES
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Travel Secretary
1 Year Contract
£17-£18,000

A young, fun Corporate Travel department of a blue-chip City company are seeking a senior secretary. You will need 2 years senior level experience, at least grade C at English O'Level/GCSE and strong PC skills including a presentation package. For a chance to use your communication skills and initiative please call Sarah Dale on 0171 377 9919.

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Admin Secretary
£20k + Bonus

A fantastic opportunity for an administration secretary with at least 2 years experience to get involved in a small dynamic City company. An outgoing personality is essential as you will be dealing with traders every day. Word for Windows, Powerpoint, Excel an advantage. Please call Annabel Bingham on 0171 377 9919.

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Variety is the Spice of life!
£19,000 + Exc Bens

Our client, a leading international leisure group is seeking a proactive, responsible secretary to work for one of their dynamic and successful divisions. Using your excellent organisational and communication skills you will find yourself organising corporate events and liaising with both internal and external contacts. Situated in fantastic offices you will enjoy a busy and fun working environment. This is a true PA role which needs a flexible and enthusiastic approach and will provide you with variety and the challenge to make it a success. Age 25 - 35, 60wpm typing/windows package. Please call Jean Shepherd on 0171 437 6632.

HOBSTONES
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Around The World
£17,500 + C.T. + Bens
Age 22-30

Join this large, globally renowned company and you will know that you are working for the best in the field. Co-ordinating a busy team you will be the point of contact for both clients and consultants, organising worldwide meetings, putting together presentations and becoming involved in ad hoc projects. This exciting role requires excellent secretarial skills (60wpm), initiative and a proactive approach, so if you have these qualities please call Isabel on 0171 437 6632.

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Secretary
£15,000 + benefits

Central London - Property Development

Our client, a highly successful company, currently has a challenging opportunity for a Secretary to join them at their prestigious offices in W1.

Working for two managers, you will form part of a small, expanding team within a busy, fast moving environment, where the emphasis is on teamwork and flexibility.

Enthusiastic and self-motivated, you will need to be well educated with at least 5 GCSEs/O' levels (or equivalent) including Maths and English (grade C or above). An experienced and accurate typist (60+ wpm) with a recognised secretarial diploma, it is essential that you are PC literate in Amipro, Lotus 123 and/or a Windows equivalent package.

In return, you'll enjoy an attractive salary and benefits package. Please apply with CV, quoting ref R1092, to Paul Wikcock, MSL Advertising Services Limited, 33 Abchurch Lane, London W1M 3JL, by 31st January 1996. Please list separately any companies to which your details should not be sent.

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CROSS SELECTION

Invest in your future
20k+

Yesterday we met two young City Directors who impressed us: they are genuine, obviously talented and really do want a secretary who will work with them as an integral part of their UK Investment Banking team. Someone fairly young, definitely bright & outgoing with the skills to demolish the workload quickly - therefore creating time to concentrate on the more interesting tasks. If you think you might be impressed too and would like to find out more please call Cross Selection on: 0171 377 5500 or Fax: 0171 377 5599.

CROSS SELECTION

COMMITTEE ON VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Administrative Assistant
£14K

An administrator is needed as part of a small team in a busy university office to help with the work of this important committee to develop and grow.

The work involves normal secretarial duties, drafting agendas and papers, minuting small group meetings, preparing copy (including DTP) for publications and publicity, and maintaining a national database of training schemes for newly qualified dentists.

Essential qualities include ability to work as part of a team and under pressure, discretion, adaptability, an interest in learning new skills and taking part in training and a sense of humour. Work based competences are keyboard and computer skills (using Windows-based packages), a good telephone manner, literacy and numeracy.

The current job-holder, who has been 'head-hunted', recommends this as an ideal job for a graduate, or for someone wishing to develop their potential.

To apply, fill in an application form (preferred method) or send in your CV. Forms and full details from Mrs Hazel Mincham, Assistant Secretary - Personnel, British Postgraduate Medical Federation, 33 Millman Street, London, WC1N 3EJ. Tel: 0171 404 2927, fax: 0171 404 2937.

Please apply to Mrs Mincham by 29 January; short-listed candidates will be interviewed on 7 February 1996.

Bright, Enthusiastic Junior

International asset management company in Knightsbridge need a highly motivated, 'A' level, computer literate basic secretarial skills. An expanding company that requires someone flexible, resourceful and hard working. Good telephone manner and ability to work under pressure essential.

Apply with CV to: Box No 2827 No agencies

TONGRIDGE

LEADING PA FOR INTERNATIONAL FINANCE & PROPERTY CO.

PLEASE CONFIRM S/H SPEED & MINIMUM OF (1) 70 WPM TYPING, (2) FIN & PROP. BACKGROUND, (3) SMALL CO BACKGROUND, (4) GOOD A/C & COMPUTER SKILLS (5) M/S

Reply to Box No 2905

CJES RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS GROUP
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Excellent opportunity to progress in a dynamic London firm

LEADING INTERNATIONAL LAW FIRM

CJES

CENTRAL LONDON £16,000-£22,000 + OUTSTANDING BENEFITS

- Legal experience in London or the provinces?
- An accountancy, medical or other professional background?

Our client is a dynamic, leading international firm of solicitors who are expanding fast. They need good, well trained secretaries with excellent skills (typing of 70 wpm) and ideally knowledge of W4W. Our client needs team players who are keen to work under pressure and offer a considerable degree of commitment. Hard work, ability and enthusiasm will be rewarded and our client can offer an exciting and challenging move within the London market. Applications in strict confidence under reference LF5055/TT to the Managing Director, CJES.

Shorthand Sec PA
Marketing
£20,000 EC4

To assist Marketing Director within prestigious law firm. Extremely varied & interesting post. 50% Admin/PR 50% Secretarial. Corporate or A Level education pref. Age 24-45

C.J.S. Agency
0181-519-7211
Fax 0181-519-2844

REGISTRAR/ADMINISTRATOR

Our friendly EFL Summer School Dept. in W1 needs a bright, full-time administrator to run the busy Registration Dept. Efficiency, versatility an essential for figures and ability to deal with people from over 40 countries, sometimes under great pressure essential.

Salary: £16 - £18,000 p.a.

Please call us on 0171 734 1137.

MARKET ACCESS INTERNATIONAL LTD

London's leading political consultancy based in Westminster is recruiting a secretary. At least 2 years experience, office administration, word for windows skills essential. Enthusiasm, flexibility with ability to deal with people as a team member. Salary negotiable.

Please send cv to Mrs Jane Wright, 7 The Sanctuary, Parliament Square, London SW1P 3SL. No Agencies

TIME TO TEMP
To £10.00 ph plus overtime

For stimulating, rewarding, highly paid assignments... Whether you're available for the odd day, long term, temp to perm or a full-time contract we currently have so many opportunities - perhaps just the one you've been waiting for! If you are 100% flexible and enthusiastic with good secretarial skills, we can offer you continuous work, top rates and a friendly, efficient service. Call Nathalie Lion at Cross Selection on: 0171 377 5500 or Fax: 0171 377 5599.

CROSS SELECTION

INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

50% Admin inc. extensive travel exp. Diary & client liaison make this a busy post for a leader in world wide org. A real open Graduate culture with 50 wpm S/H & 80 wpm typ. W4W and progression & stimulus with this flexible partner.

Age: 24/30 £17,500
NORMA SKEMP REC: 0171 222 9911.

EUROPEAN CHAIRMAN
£18-20,000

Principal: Please apply to PA with cv (including 50wpm) and 2 photos to: Head of HR Dept. The major role is as a Chairman with world renowned PR Dept but this post is one of administrative work & variety. Hours 8:30-5:00 weekdays Age 25-40yrs

NORMA SKEMP REC: 0171 222 9911.

LONG/SHORT TERM TEMPS

If you have good secretarial skills (W4W) and are looking for short or long term temp-work and the support of a helpful team, then call Darren Smith at Tate Appointments on 0171 408 0424 NOW!

Tate

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FAX:
0171 481 9313

Secretary/ Research Assistant £19,000 + Excellent Bens West End

Are you a trouble-shooter with a professional and mature attitude? If so, this international firm are seeking a secretary with a flair and interest for research. Your excellent organisational and communication skills and ability to work on your own projects will allow you to develop this role. If you have good knowledge of AppleMac and Novell systems combined with solid database experience then please call Julie Galambos-Waring on 0171-434 4512 to discuss this exciting opportunity.

Crone Corkill
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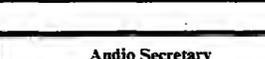
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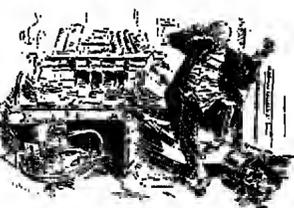
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CONCERT
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quiet man

Beardsley sets ambitious target Newcastle stake single-minded claim for double

By Peter Ball and Russell Kempson

IN THE 1950s, the league and FA Cup double was regarded as almost impossible; nowadays talk of it is cheap, even before the third round of the Cup is complete. Tonight, Peter Beardsley leads Newcastle United into their replay with Chelsea saying "we still have a chance of doing the double."

Chelsea have appealed against the sending-off of Mark Hughes, for allegedly stamping on David Unsworth, in the 1-1 draw at Everton on Saturday. If unsuccessful, Hughes could miss five matches because of suspension.

A different kind of double is concerning Manchester City — the failure of their front pair, Quinn and Rösler, to score goals or work effectively together. Alan Ball has kept faith with them for the replay with Leicester City at Maine Road tonight, but his patience is beginning to wear thin.

Cliftonville dread penalty prospect

By Russell Kempson

WEST Bromwich Albion can breathe easily again, their run of 11 successive defeats in the Endisleigh Insurance League first division having ended with a 0-0 draw against Wolverhampton Wanderers on Saturday. For Cliftonville, though, the nightmare returns to haunt them, again and again. When the part-timers from the Smirnoff Irish League premier division take on Ballymena in the Sun Life Gold Cup quarter-finals tonight, even defeat in normal or extra time might be preferable to what could follow.

Cliftonville cannot win penalty shoot-outs. Of the 17 they have taken part in, they have won only four of 13 in the past ten years, they have won only one. Twice already this season they have endured a slow death at the sudden-death conclusion of a match — in the League Cup quarter-final against Crusaders and in the Co Antrim Shield first-round tie against Carrick Rangers. It is getting beyond a joke, Irish or otherwise.

Hope soars as Olympic trial hot up

SHANNON HOPE, the captain, is certain that Great Britain's Olympic ice hockey squad can consolidate the lead in their qualifying group by coming through a difficult tie against Slovenia in Ljubljana tonight. The team has won one and drawn its other two group games.

FOR THE RECORD

Table with sports results: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA), BASKETBALL, BOWLS, FOOTBALL, CRICKET, RUGBY, TENNIS, SQUASH, OTHER SPORT.

Kendall returns to the spotlight

By Peter Ball

A week ago, Newcastle United found Arsenal too stern a test at Highbury in a cup-tie. Four days earlier, a team at the wrong end of the Endisleigh Insurance League first division had succeeded where the FA Carling Premiership leaders failed, drawing 1-1 in the third round of the FA Cup and generating the crowds that have queued for tickets round Bramall Lane for the replay tonight, Sheffield United's biggest night of the season.

Howard Kendall, the new Sheffield manager, is looking forward to the game with particular relish. "I wasn't even employed when the third-round draw was made, so to be involved at Highbury was fabulous," Kendall said. "It gives you a buzz, it gives the staff and players a big lift, and the fans. To see queues round Bramall Lane and smiles on people's faces is what you come to the club for. You want to give them something to shout about."

Van Vossen moves to Rangers in exchange deal

By Our Sports Staff

PETER VAN VOSSEN, the Holland international, arrived in Glasgow yesterday to join Rangers and admit: "I'm so relieved to leave Turkey." Van Vossen has arrived in a straight swap deal that has taken Oleg Salenko, the Russian, to Istanbulspor.



Kendall, right, and McDonald, his new chairman, are relishing a brighter future for Sheffield United

Peter Ball finds a familiar figure staging a revival before an FA Cup third-round replay

Dublin to add height and presence to a small forward line. From Everton, he took some wrong turnings, a spell at Notts County ending amid fears that he had a drink problem. "I will never forgive the people involved who actually did that," Kendall said.

Wigan in need of stronger challenge

By Christopher Irvine

FOR all Wigan's achievement in winning the centenary season double, the cream provided by the Super League is the spur in rugby league's 101st year. Goodness knows, the perennial British champions need a worthy challenge.

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Vertical advertisement for 'TONIGHT EVERY WEEKDA' featuring a large 'OYZ' logo and 'DISCOVERY' text.

Crowe calls it a day after long struggle for fitness

MARTIN CROWE, New Zealand's leading Test batsman, yesterday announced his retirement...

Warwickshire players likely to be discarded from World Cup party Last opportunity for England to regain credibility

FROM SIMON WILDE IN DURBAN... The time for laxity and losing has run out. If England are not to go to the World Cup in three weeks' time demoralised by defeat and unsettled as a team...



Cork was concentrating on improved accuracy at net practice yesterday

IN BRIEF

Swiss pair celebrate success in slalom

A FOURTH World Cup giant slalom victory of the season enabled Michael Von Grunigen to complete a Swiss skiing double in front of home supporters at Adlonboden yesterday...

Ebdon advances

Snooker: Peter Ebdon joined Steve Davis in the semi-finals of the Guangzhou Masters in China yesterday...

Sevens conflict

Rugby: While rugby union in England remains at odds over professionalism, the Rugby Football League (RFL) sees conflict with an invitation to the Middlesex Sevens on May 11...

Syed suffers

Table tennis: Matthew Syed, who narrowly failed to win an Olympic place at the qualifying event in Manchester last weekend, has pulled out of the European Nations' Cup in Germany on Friday because he is "emotionally exhausted" and has flu...

Potts dies

Football: Harry Potts, who spent 13 years as a player with Burnley and then brought the league title to Turf Moor in 1959-60, in the first of two spells as manager, died yesterday, aged 75.

Checking out

Cricket: Simon Kellett, 28, the former Yorkshire batsman, has turned down the chance to sign for Sussex and joined the Coscounter supermarket chain instead.



Crowe played 77 Tests

Sri Lanka snatch place in World Series Cup finals

host country, while West Indies kick their heels... Romesh Kaluwitharana, the wicketkeeper and opening batsman, was their match-winner, racing to the third-fastest half-century in the competition's 16-year history as Sri Lanka set out in pursuit of Australia's 242 for four...

TABLE showing match statistics for Sri Lanka vs West Indies, including runs, wickets, and overs.

Nicol banishes critics with unique victory

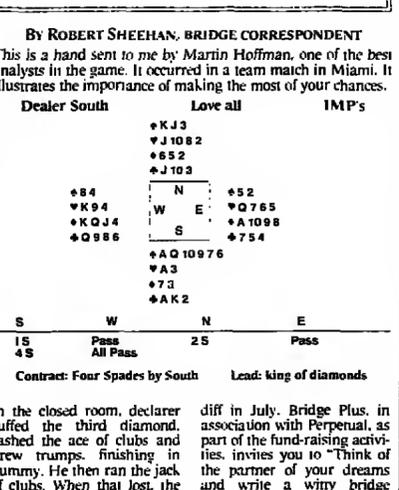
THE victory by Peter Nicol, of Scotland, in the QM British squash championship will go a long way towards diluting criticism that followed his refusal to play for his country in the world team championship in November...

Moore clear to play in cup quarter-final

MANCHESTER Giants were happy to learn yesterday that Joe Moore, the England international basketball guard whom they signed from London Towers last week, is eligible for the National Cup quarter-final tonight against Sheffield Sharks, the holders...

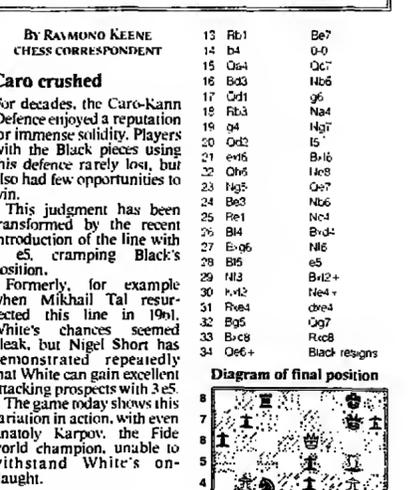
SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT... This is a hand sent to me by Martin Hoffman, one of the best analysts in the game. It occurred in a team match in Miami. It illustrates the importance of making the most of your chances.



KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT... Caro crushed... For decades, the Caro-Kann Defence enjoyed a reputation for immense solidity. Players with the Black pieces using this defence rarely lost, but also had few opportunities to win.



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1995 QUIZ OF THE SPORTING YEAR... JAMES SCHUMACHER, of Caterham, Surrey, is the winner of The Times Quiz of the Sporting Year and his prize is The Classic Malts, a selection of six fine whiskies.

WORD-WATCHING By Philip Howard... ZOWIE a. An exclamation of astonishment b. A baby chameleon c. "Certainly" in Crypton WAP a. A type of popular music b. To copulate c. A good slap

WINNING MOVE By Raymond Keene... Black to move. This position is a variation from the game Speelman - Agdesten, Hastings Premier, 1991. Jon Speelman, realising what was in store for him here, had already resigned this position. How would Black finish off? Solution on page 42

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 17 1996

Defeat of Korda enhances young Briton's growing reputation

Henman attracts open acclaim

FROM STUART JONES
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
IN MELBOURNE

TIM HENMAN, the national tennis champion, is no longer the centre of parochial attention. The only Briton to reach the second round of the Australian Open here, the 21-year-old from Oxfordshire is beginning to command respect on a global scale and to attract predictions about his future that grow ever brighter.

The youngster is too level-headed to be carried away by glowing compliments, agreeable though they may be, and he had virtually no time to bask in them anyway. Little more than 24 hours after knocking out Petr Korda, he was scheduled to return to the scene of his triumph for his next match.

Of the eight new courts built in the second stage of the refurbishment of Flinders Park, considered by common consent to be the most spectacular of the four grand-slam

venues, Henman was performing yesterday in "rain-spotters' corner". Yards behind the far backcloth lay the city's main railway line.

Few spectators among the record crowd bothered to visit the most distant retreat in the huge complex until news spread that Korda was in trouble. By the time he was eliminated, 5-7, 7-6, 6-3, 6-4, after three hours, the two open sides of the court were filled with curious bystanders.

Not many had heard of Henman, Korda had, but only through his temporary coach, Tony Pickard. For once Pickard was ambivalent about the outcome. Having extolled the virtues of the Briton before leaving his post as Davis Cup captain, he confessed to "wanting both men to win".

He was so convinced about Henman's ability that, once his fruitful partnership with Stefan Edberg ended a year ago, he sought to guide the nation's most promising individual. Korda, though he has benefited from the rejection,

Flinders Park results 40

can understand the interest shown by his new mentor.

"If he [Henman] can play at that level," he proclaimed, "I think that he can get to the top 20 easily." Korda should know. For five years he was a member of the elite group before the effects of a damaged hernia, surgically corrected in October, lowered his status.

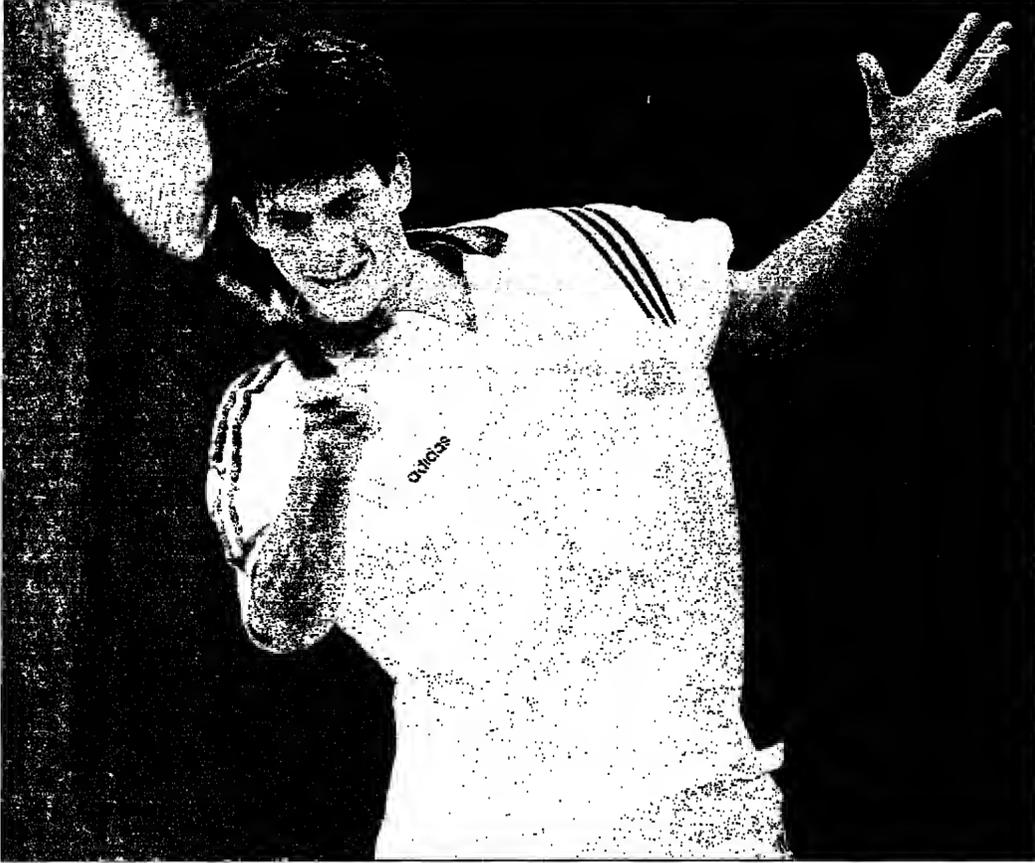
"He's got a great serve, he can hit the ball well and he's got great potential," Korda, from the Czech Republic, added before issuing a warning. "From what I know from the past, he can play a great match and then [follow it with] not such a good performance."

Henman accepted the criticism. As an example of his inconsistency, he failed to qualify for the opening tournament of the year in Doha, ironically, Korda won the title there to lift himself in the world rankings to No 26.

In 1992, the year before he won the Grand Slam Cup, Korda was No 7. He finished as the runner-up in the French Open then, but his grand-slam record is otherwise comparatively undistinguished.

Korda was 4-2 down in each set and was spared a swifter defeat by a combination of Henman's apprehension and excessive caution. The Briton yielded the opening set with a double fault, missed three points to take the second set and four points to capture the third before doing so.

He also held two match points at 5-3 before completing victory with his ninth ace.



Henman is a study of concentration as he drives a forehand during his first-round victory against Korda yesterday. Photograph: Julian Herbert

Such diffidence would doubtless have been punished by a fitter and more combative opponent, as Greg Rusedski was forcibly to be reminded during the closing match of the day on the centre court.

Britain's other representative in the men's singles was heading towards an even more startling upset when, 2-1

up in sets, he held the second of two points to break an irritated and plainly disheartened Boris Becker and lead 2-1 in the fourth. A net cord assisted his cause.

The ball sat up, giving Rusedski the opening he required. Instead of positive action, though, he merely pushed his backhand, was

subsequently passed and lost the impetus he had gained. Becker, transformed, dropped only five points in his last seven service games to go through 6-4, 3-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Rusedski struck the fastest service measured at Flinders Park, one of only a dozen aces, timed at 217kph (three short of his world record) and punched holes in Becker's belief. "I wasn't sure I was going to leave the court as the winner," the No 4 seed conceded.

Since being crowned as the champion in 1991, Becker had reached the second round only once. He paid tribute to the lone Briton to have joined him there. "I'm amazed at the number of matches Henman's played recently. That's a good sign. It shows that he's hungry."

Rusedski agreed with Korda's forecast - whatever Henman's fate today against Jonas Bjorkman, whom he beat last year.

Clare Wood, Britain's sole entrant in the women's singles, predictably could resist neither a blustery wind in the afternoon nor the second seed, Conchita Martinez and went out 6-4, 6-1.



Rusedski, beaten in five sets by Becker, is congratulated by his relieved opponent as they leave the court

Ban threat leaves Mason on thin ice

A woman lance corporal from Scotland faces being banned from competing in the skeleton bobsleigh World Cup series because the organisers say only men should compete in the event, in which athletes hurtle head-first down slopes on sleighs that look like tea trays with runners.

Cecilia Mason, who finished 39th, ahead of nine men, in the first World Cup race in Altenburg, Germany, last Sunday is the only woman to have taken part in the series of a sport in which competitors sometimes reach 85mph during descents.



Mason controversy

John Goodbody on how a men-only ruling is affecting a British bobsleigh competitor

Yesterday, she was on her way with the rest of the Great Britain team to La Plagne, France, for the next event in the World Cup.

However, her presence in the opening event has worried the International Bobsleigh and Toboggan Federation, which will decide before the race on Saturday whether she can compete.

to bobsleigh and luge, there are separate World Cup and European Cup events for women. However, for skeleton bobsleigh no female-only races exist and there is nothing in the federation's ruling that says riders must be male.

Lance Corporal Mason, 20, from Mermus, near Forfar, said: "I want to take part in the World Cup and qualify for the world championships in Calgary next month. The other competitors do not mind that I am a woman. They have been most welcoming."

Mason has been competing in the sport since November 1994, when she watched other competitors in Germany where she has been stationed with the Royal Corps of Signals.

her from taking part in the World Cup. We are now waiting for their decision but we feel she should be permitted to participate."

Skeleton bobsleigh uses the same tracks as those of bobsleigh. Competitors use a sleigh weighing 40 kilograms. There are no brakes and the rider is protected only by a helmet and elbow pads.

After a sprint start, the competitor jumps onto the sleigh, getting into a position as low as possible with the nose just above the ice and arms tucked into the side to reduce air resistance.

Mason displays her skill during a descent at Altenburg



Mason displays her skill during a descent at Altenburg

Fifa sets collision course with FA over foreigners

By JOHN GOODBODY

FIFA, football's world governing body, and the English football authorities were on a collision course yesterday over the European Court of Justice's ruling on the international transfer system and the number of foreign players that can be fielded by clubs.

Sepp Blatter, the Fifa secretary general, said yesterday that he will order national football federations to maintain the outlawed limits on the number of foreigners in European club competitions. The world governing body is giving its full backing to Uefa, the European governing body, which is refusing to alter its regulations in the middle of this season's competitions on the Continent.

Blatter said the rule limiting clubs to fielding three foreigners plus two "assimilated" players must be maintained by the clubs. An "assimilated" player is one who has lived in the country for at least five years or has played in a youth team in that country.

"This means that a club can sign foreign players if it wants to, but at the same time, the rule will prevent it from simply doing what it likes," Blatter said.

Fifa is effectively mounting a challenge to the ruling last month on the case of Jean-Marc Bosman by the European Court of Justice that football's regulations broke European Union (EU) laws and that footballers were entitled to the same freedom of movement within the EU after a contract has ended as other workers.

The FA Premier League has already scrapped its rules restricting the number of EU nationals that can play in a team and, yesterday, opposed Uefa on the controversial Interotto Cup when its clubs voted not to participate in the 1996 competition.

Rick Parry, the Premier League chief executive, said: "This decision has been taken purely on practical considerations - in particular, the overlap with the European championship and the starting dates of the FA Carling Premiership season."

Venables restores Ince for England gathering

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

PAUL INCE, the Internazionale midfielder player, has been welcomed back into the England fold. Terry Venables, the England coach, has included Ince in his party for squad training at Bisham Abbey next week, an indication that he remains an integral part of Venables's plans for the European championship.

Ince, 28, made his last appearance for England in the 1-1 draw against Romania at Wembley in October 1994. He was left out of the squad for the game against Uruguay last spring because of his involvement in a court case and then withdrew from the Umbro Cup tournament in the summer while his protracted transfer from Manchester United was completed.

An initially fraught spell with Inter led to his continued absence this season and

Newcastle's double aim ... 40

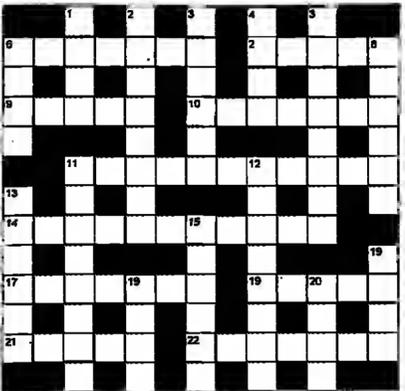
Venables said: "Paul needed time to settle in Italy. I've been abroad myself and it is not easy. It is a new club, a new language and everything takes time. He's got that experience behind him now and he's playing well. He's confident again and it's the right time to bring him back."

With no game until Bulgaria visit Wembley on March 27, Venables views the 25-strong squad session as vital to his planning. "Getting the players in January gives us the chance to do the detailed work that has not been possible until now," he said. "Usually, we have been preparing for specific opposition. My aim is to make a good side better."

Though Venables announced last week that he intends to stand down after Euro '96, he is still keen to involve fringe players. Alan Wright, the Aston Villa full back, Ugo Ehiogu, his defensive team-mate, and Sol Campbell, the Tottenham Hotspur utility player, have been included for the get-together. "With Graeme Le Saux, sadly unavailable, Wright is the one new name," Venables said. "He and Graeme are rivals for the same position at Blackburn and, like Graeme, he is quick and a good footballer."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 680



- ACROSS
- 6 To compress (7)
 - 7 Month Browning longed for England (5)
 - 9 Gradually narrow (5)
 - 10 Large Spanish ship (7)
 - 11 Scur's sphere (7,4)
 - 14 (Eg kill) without emotion (2,4,5)
 - 17 A glass; a pigeon; part of lock (7)
 - 19 Live; endure (5)
 - 21 Fights of honour (5)
 - 22 At top speed (4,3)
- DOWN
- 1 Witty remark (4)
 - 2 Treachery (8)
 - 3 Elevation (6)
 - 4 Bucket (4)
 - 5 (Drawing) without assistance (8); discretion (1,4)
 - 6 Place of activity (4)
 - 8 Missing company (6)
 - 11 Trunchion-shaped salad veg (8)
 - 12 Avert gaze (4,4)
 - 13 With a special talent (6)
 - 15 Deprived (6)
 - 16 Nuisance; other half of Buda (4)
 - 18 Final; endure (4)
 - 20 Computer-screen command symbol (4)

SOLUTION TO No 679
ACROSS: 1 Scarf 4 Cassius 8 Labyrinth 9 Age 10 Hut 11 Expedient 12 Berth 13 Nurse 16 Testifier 18 Fat 20 Axe 21 Spexulate 22 Torrent 23 Ernie
DOWN: 1 Sylph 2 Arbitrator 3 Force the issue 4 Canapé 5 Schadenfreude 6 Image 7 Spectre 12 Bit part 14 Refrain 15 Diver 17 Swear 19 There

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DOWN: 1 Grand 2 Upper 3 Steady 4 Rebecca 5 Epitaph 6 Dénouement 9 Dotted line 13 Calypso 14 Patient 16 Gauche 19 Raze 26 Silly

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